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Chronology

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CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2002

This section is part seventy-four of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.

16 FEBRUARY

In Jenin, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** assassinate **local Hamas leader Nazih al-Siba'** using a remote-controlled bomb; **1,000s of Palestinians** take to the streets to protest against Israel. A **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) suicide bomber** infiltrates a Karnei Shomron settlement in the West Bank, detonating a device in a food court, killing **3 Jewish settlers**, injuring more than 20. The **IDF** responds with missile strikes against targets in Nablus. Palestinians fire **1–2 Qas-sam-2** rockets, 2 mortars at IDF positions in Gaza and across the border inside Israel, causing no damage. The **IDF** conducts raids into areas controlled by the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** around Bureij, killing **2 Palestinians** and injuring 12, destroying a **PA Preventive Security Force (PSF)** training base, several PSF posts. (AP, LAW 2/16; XIN 2/16 in WNC 2/19; NYT, WP, WT 2/17)

17 FEBRUARY

For the 1st time, the **IDF** erects portable housing for soldiers in PA-controlled areas of the West Bank nr. Jenin. **Israeli police** halt a vehicle outside an IDF training base nr. Hadera, Israel. **1 Palestinian** flees, is fatally shot by police; the **2d Palestinian** detonates an explosive device, killing himself, injuring 3 policemen, 3 bystanders; **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB)** takes responsibility. **Israeli PM Ariel Sharon** meets with his **cabinet** to discuss how to respond; no decision is announced. **IDF F-16s** bomb PA targets in Nablus (hitting a government building, PSF office, apartment building), Ramallah (hitting a PSF office); repeatedly break the sound barrier over Jenin. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in Umm al-Sharayit; demolishes a water network, digs a trench along a main road in Nablus; sets up observation towers

with heavy machine gun emplacements, reinforces positions on the western border of Khan Yunis refugee camp (r.c.); tightens closures on Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian farmers in al-Tuwani, burn at least 200 dunams of wheat. A **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/16. (HA, HP, JP [Internet], *al-Quds* [Internet] 2/17; MA 2/18 in WNC 2/19; NYT, WP, WT 2/18)

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdallah announces that he has drafted an initiative to be presented to the Arab League offering full Arab normalization with Israel in exchange for Israel's full withdrawal fr. all the occupied territories captured in 1967. (HA, NYT 2/17; MM 2/18; MENA, QA 2/18 in WNC 2/19; MM, WP, WT 2/19; MM 5/20; AYM 2/20 in WNC 2/25; MM 5/22, 5/25; WP 3/2; MEI 3/8) (see Quarterly Update)

18 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian violence leaves a total of **6 Palestinians**, **3 Jewish settlers**, **1 IDF soldier** dead. In Gaza, the **IDF** fires on 2 Palestinians allegedly attempting to infiltrate a **Jewish settlement**, killing 1; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, killing **3 Palestinians**, barring ambulances fr. reaching the scene, firing on at least 1 ambulance. **AMB** gunmen fire on a settler vehicle nr. Kissufim crossing in Gaza; then 1 AMB mbr. detonates a bomb, killing himself, **3 settlers**, wounding 4. In the Jordan Valley, the **IDF** stops a Palestinian car nr. Ma'ale Adumim; the driver fires on soldiers, detonates a remote-controlled car bomb, killing himself and **1 soldier**, injuring a 2d soldier. The **IDF** responds by sending **F-16s** to destroy 3 **PSF** buildings nr. Rafah, injuring 4 PSF officers; blocks 3 main roads in Gaza, banning all Palestinian traffic; shells residential areas of Dayr al-Balah. The **IDF** confiscates 80 dunams of

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Palestinian land nr. Karnei Shomron settlement. (NYT, WP 2/19; NYT 2/20)

19 FEBRUARY

An **AMB gunman** attacks an IDF outpost n. of Jerusalem, killing **6 IDF soldiers**, critically wounding 1, and escaping. **IDF F-16s** shell **2 PSF** buildings in Rafah, Ramallah; naval vessels fire a missile at **PA head Yasir Arafat's** compound in Gaza, killing **4 Force 17 mbrs.** The **IDF** also rockets a **Hamas** office in Jabaliya, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.** in an apparent assassination; among the 11 injured are 9 children. **2 Palestinians** are killed in **IDF** strikes on Nablus. A **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device in the West Bank, killing only himself, causing no injuries. The **IDF** bulldozes a **Palestinian home** in Dayr al-Balah, **2 Palestinian homes** in Umm Tuba nr. Jabal Abu Ghunaym settlement, 1 dunam of agricultural land nr. Yatta; bans all Palestinian vehicular traffic except ambulances in the n. West Bank. Late in the evening, the **IDF** fires 18 shells at **Arafat's** compound in Gaza, killing **5 PSF officers**; 1 missile into his compound in Ramallah, where he has been held under virtual house arrest since 12/01. In Hebron, **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinian areas, causing no injuries. (AP, Mezan, MM, NYT, WT 2/19; AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/20; AFP, MA 2/20 in WNC 2/21; MM, PCHR, WP 2/21)

20 FEBRUARY

Sharon meets with his **cabinet**, which agrees to intensify attacks on Palestinians in response to escalating violence. The **IDF** stages massive aerial, naval assaults on PA targets in the West Bank and Gaza, leaving a total of **16 Palestinians** dead, including **2 Hamas** mbrs. allegedly preparing to fire mortars in Gaza. The **IDF** also makes incursions into Nablus, killing 9 Palestinians, occupying an apartment building, confining 130 residents to a single floor, allegedly ordering some Palestinian men to stand at the windows as human shields. The **IDF** again shells **Arafat's** Ramallah compound, injuring 1 bodyguard; also shells **2 PSF** buildings in Gaza City, 1 in Jenin; further tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement, even barring young children who had passed through checkpoints in the morning fr. walking home fr. school. (AP, MM, WT 2/20; AFP 2/20 in WNC 2/21; NYT, Physicians for Human Rights press release, WP, WT 2/21; NYT 2/22)

In Tel Aviv, **Israel DM Benjamin Ben-Eliezer** holds a secret mtg. with **PSF Gaza head Muhammad Dahlan**, **Arafat financial adviser Muhammad Rashid** to discuss the escalating violence. The sides agree to a **CIA** request to hold a secret **trilateral security comm.** mtg. on 2/23. (NYT 2/22)

21 FEBRUARY

In a massive predawn operation, the **IDF** sends tanks, troops into Gaza City fr. 3 directions, firing heavy machine guns, demolishing the **Palestine Broadcasting Center**, taking Palestinian TV and radio off the air. **IDF** helicopters strike the PA military intelligence, military police, Force 17 buildings in the city. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers into Brazil r.c., killing **6 Palestinians**; dispatches **F-16s** to bomb a PA security building in Khan Yunis, helicopters shell a Force 17 building in al-Bireh, naval vessels shell a PA naval police station in Bayt Lahia. Nr. Jerusalem, a **Palestinian** fires on an IDF post, injuring 2 IDF soldiers before being shot dead. An **8th Palestinian** is fatally shot at an IDF checkpoint for "acting suspiciously"; an **Israeli Arab** is killed in an incident elsewhere. The **PSF** arrests **3 senior PFLP mbrs.** suspected of involvement in the 10/01 assassination of **Israel's Tourism M Rehavam Ze'evi**. **Israel**, which had made the arrests a condition of easing **Arafat's** confinement, says the PA must also arrest anyone behind the *Karine A* arms shipment (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 123), **Arafat** must achieve complete quiet before Israel will allow him to leave his Ramallah compound. (AP, MM, NYT, PCHR, REU, WP, WT 2/21; AFP 2/21 in WNC 2/22; AFP, NYT, WP, WT 2/22; PCHR 2/27; WP 4/19)

The **CIA** convenes a **trilateral security comm.** mtg. at Erez crossing to discuss security issues. As a result of the mtg., Israel agrees not to initiate military operations for 1 wk., except to prevent imminent terrorist attacks. (NYT 2/22, 2/23; NYT, WT 2/24; WP 2/25)

In a TV address, **Sharon** urges Israelis to stiffen their resolve but does not offer a vision of how to achieve a cease-fire or durable peace; announces plans to create buffer zones to impose "security separation" between Israeli and Palestinian territory; demands the "complete demilitarization" of the PA areas as a "prelude" to a final settlement; denounces "expressions of disobedience" such as the **IDF** conscientious objection petition (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 123),

which he says “encourage terrorist organizations.” (MM 5/21; AFP, HP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/22; QA 2/22 in WNC 2/25; *Guardian*, WP, WT 2/23; *Le Monde* 2/24 in WNC 2/26; HA 3/1; MEI 3/8)

At a **UN Security Council (UNSC)** emergency session in New York, **UN Secy-Gen. Kofi Annan** warns that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is “sliding toward a full-fledged war”; says that the **Mitchell and Tenet plans** have clearly not succeeded, that an active international effort and “new thinking” are necessary. The **Israeli, U.S.** reps. strongly reject anything other than U.S. mediation. (NYT 2/22)

22 FEBRUARY

A **Palestinian** worker in the West Bank settlement of Efrat attempts to detonate a suicide bomb in a supermarket, but is shot dead by armed customers. **IDF soldiers** mistakenly fire on a **Jewish settler** vehicle nr. Ramallah, wounding 1 settler they believed was shooting at them; the settler was shooting at nearby **Palestinians**. **Palestinian gunmen** fatally shoot a **Jewish settler** driving nr. Pisgat Ze'ev. The **IDF** conducts arrests raids in Tamun; directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas nr. Qarni crossing. (HP 2/22; NYT, WP, WT 2/23; WT 2/25)

23 FEBRUARY

IDF soldiers fatally shoot a **Palestinian** at a checkpoint nr. Halhul, claiming he was acting suspiciously. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **IDF** also clashes with **Palestinians** nr. the Rafah crossing, wounding 16; shells residential areas of Rafah, wounding 20, destroying 1 building. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Ramallah, wounding 2. Elsewhere, an armed **Jewish settler** critically wounds a Palestinian. Nr. Balata r.c., 3 Palestinians are injured in a mysterious explosion. (HP 2/23; NYT, WT 2/24; PCHR 2/27)

24 FEBRUARY

IDF soldiers fire at the car of **Palestinian Council (PC) speaker and senior PA negotiator Ahmad Qurai'** as it approaches a West Bank checkpoint. Qurai' is unharmed; **Israel** apologizes for the error. **IDF** soldiers at a checkpoint in Nablus shoot, wound a **pregnant Palestinian woman**, not knowing that she, her husband had been given IDF approval to pass through to reach a hos-

pital where she could give birth. The **IDF** directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Balata, Rafah. (AFP 2/24; AFP, NYT, WP 2/25; PCHR 2/27; WJW 2/28)

The **Israeli inner cabinet** votes (12-0, with 3 abstaining) to loosen the tank cordon around **Arafat's** Ramallah headquarters, allow him to leave the compound, but require him to seek **Sharon's** permission if he wishes to leave the city. In protest, the **PA** cancels today's **trilateral security comm.** mtg.; refuses Sharon's request to meet with **Arafat senior adviser Mahmud Abbas, Qurai', Rashid.** (HA 2/24; RMC 2/24 in WNC 2/25; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/25; AYM, DUS, SA 2/25 in WNC 2/26; AKH, JT, MENA, *al-Quds* 2/26 in WNC 2/27; WT 3/2)

25 FEBRUARY

For the 2d time in 2 days at the same location, **IDF** soldiers open fire on a Palestinian car that had been given IDF approval to cross a Nablus checkpoint to deliver a **pregnant Palestinian woman** in labor to a hospital. The woman's husband is killed instantly, her father-in-law left paralyzed, while she is ordered to strip, is left bleeding on a cold stretcher for 45 mins. before the IDF transports her to a hospital, where she delivers a healthy baby. The soldiers' brigade cmdr. issues a statement saying the soldiers acted “according to procedures.” Nr. Bethlehem, **AMB gunmen** fire on a Jewish settler vehicle, seriously wounding a **pregnant Jewish settler** en route to a Jerusalem hospital, killing her father, another passenger; the woman delivers a healthy baby. An **AMB mbr.** opens fire on a bus stop in Neve Ya'aqov settlement, wounding 5 settlers, 3 policemen before being shot, wounded, arrested. Nr. Tulkarm, a **15-yr.-old Palestinian girl** runs toward an **IDF** checkpoint wielding a knife, is shot dead by troops; she leaves a suicide note denouncing the Israeli occupation. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of al-Khadir, Rafah, Tal Sultan. **Jewish settlers** erect new caravans in Itamar settlement. (BBC, HP 2/25; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/26; PCHR 2/27; JP 3/8)

26 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** nr. Balata. A **Palestinian woman** in labor loses her baby when IDF troops bar her transpor-

tation to a hospital. The **IDF** also fires on Palestinians outside al-Nur mosque in Brazil r.c., wounding 6; demolish 3 **Palestinian homes** in Bayt Hanina; raid Khan Yunis, temporarily occupy a Palestinian home. (PCHR, WT 2/27; LAW 3/6)

Late in the evening, the **CIA** convenes a **trilateral security comm.** mtg. with **Israeli, PA security officials** in Herziliya. The PA, which cancelled security contacts on 2/24, agreed to resume mtgs. at the **European Union's** (EU) request. (HA, MM, WT 2/27; *al-Quds* 2/27 in WNC 2/28)

27 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots 3 **armed infiltrators fr. Egypt** in the s. Negev. A **female suicide bomber** detonates a device at an IDF roadblock in the West Bank, wounding 3 soldiers; 2 **Israeli Arabs** traveling with her are arrested, 1 is shot and wounded. The woman, an al-Najah University student originally affiliated with Hamas (see 1/27), 1st approached **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** about staging a suicide bombing but was refused; the **AMB** ultimately provided her with explosives. In E. Jerusalem, a **Palestinian** fatally shoots his **Jewish settler** employer in a politically motivated attack. **IDF** soldiers fire on Palestinians outside al-Nur mosque in Brazil r.c. for the 2d day, wounding 4. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches air strikes on Balata. **Jewish settlers** bulldoze Palestinian land nr. Bracha settlement, set up a caravan. The **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Jenin; reportedly sprays range land with poison nr. Tubas, killing many goats, sheep. (JP [Internet], *al-Quds* [Internet] 2/27; AP, NYT, WP, WT 2/28; MM, NYT 3/1; AYM 3/2 in WNC 3/4; WP 3/7)

28 FEBRUARY

In the morning, the **IDF** sends troops, tanks into **Balata** (an **AMB** stronghold); surrounds and attacks **Jenin** r.c. without entering it. The massive two-pronged operation, called **Colorful Journey**, meets strong resistance, touching off fierce gun battles that continue into the night, leaving 1 **IDF soldier** and at least 11 **Palestinians** dead (4 in Balata, including **Balata AMB leader Kayid Abu Mustafa**; 7 in Jenin, including 6 **PSF officers**), wounding more than 150 Palestinians (more than 100 in Balata, 40 in Jenin). Troops bar ambulances fr. entering the camps to aid the wounded. In the afternoon, the **IDF** declares a brief cease-fire, ordering

unarmed residents to leave Balata, but few do—most fearing permanent exile. The **IDF** cuts electricity and water to the camp; evicts, demolishes several **Palestinian homes** at the edge of the camp; conducts house-to-house searches, breaking through walls to move fr. building to building, demolishing at least 5 homes, damaging 100; occupies a UN-operated boys school. Israel says the operation is designed to arrest Palestinians wanted for “terrorist attacks,” but none are arrested during the day. As the day progresses, violence spreads to other West Bank towns, especially in the Bayt Jala–Gilo area. The **IDF** also sends tanks to surround Tulkarm; tightens closures on Dayr al-Balah, Gaza City, Qalqilya, Ramallah, as well as access to Jerusalem; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; occupies a PSF post in Tamun; directs heavy machine gun fire at Aida r.c., Bayt Jala, Bethlehem; bulldozes Palestinian land in Azariyya for construction of a settler bypass road. The **PA** suspends **trilateral security comm.** talks. (AP, HP, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP 2/28; BDL, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/1; AFP 3/1, AYM 3/2, XIN 3/3 in WNC 3/4; WP, WT 3/2; LAW 3/6; MEI 3/8)

1 MARCH

In a predawn operation, the **IDF** sends troops into **Jenin** r.c. and town, meeting stiff resistance; continues its attack on **Balata**, reportedly occupying the home of **local Fatah military cmdr. Musa Talalka**. Troops also direct heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Hanun. In total, 1 **IDF soldier**, at least 9 **Palestinians** (including **senior Hamas mbr. Khalid Jamal Nazam**) are killed during the day. Israel still does not capture any wanted Palestinians, recovers few arms. Some 5,000 **Palestinians** demonstrate at an **IDF** roadblock nr. al-Bireh; soldiers fire tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets, wounding 10s. (BDL, GS, HA, HP, MM, WP 3/1; AFP 3/1 in WNC 3/4; NYT, WP, WT 3/2; HA, WP 3/3; LAW 3/6)

2 MARCH

An **AMB suicide bomber** detonates a device in an ultraorthodox Jewish neighborhood of Beit Israel in West Jerusalem, killing 9 **Israelis**, including 5 children, and wounding 40. The **PA** “fully” condemns the attack or any attack “that targets civilians from both sides.” The **AMB** says it picked a bomber fr. Dahaysha r.c. in retaliation for the IDF raids on the camps in Balata, Jenin. In Ramallah,

Palestinians hold a spontaneous pro-AMB rally in support of the bombing. **Hamas** also issues a statement calling the attack legitimate. **AMB gunmen** also fatally shoot an **Israeli policeman** in a Jewish settlement outside Jerusalem; an **IDF soldier** dies of injuries received on 3/1. The **IDF** continues house-to-house, section-by-section searches in **Balata, Jenin r.c.** for the 3d day, moving from house to house through the walls. By the evening troops pull out of **Jenin r.c.** Troops in **Balata** say that they have captured a stash of 6 Qassam-2 rockets, 7 explosive belts for suicide bombings, detained 15 Palestinians, killed **10 Palestinians** since the raids began. **IDF** forces in **Jenin r.c.** say they have killed **20 Palestinians**, arrested 12 during the same period. Elsewhere, an ambulance carrying 3 seriously ill Palestinian infants to a Ramallah intensive care unit is detained by the **IDF** at a checkpoint for 45 mins., causing **one baby** to die; **1 Palestinian** is fatally shot by IDF troops nr. Bayt Hanun; a **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. Clashes are reported in Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah. The **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Bethlehem. (HA, HP 3/2; NYT, WP, WT 3/3; DUS 3/3 in WNC 3/4; MM 3/4; LAW 3/6; MEI 3/8)

3 MARCH

An **AMB sniper** using a decades-old carbine rifle fatally shoots **7 IDF soldiers, 3 Jewish settlers**, wounding 6 others at a checkpoint nr. Ofra settlement before escaping, leaving his gun behind. In response, **IDF** tanks, helicopters, **F-16s** strike PSF targets in Bethlehem, killing **4 PSF officers**, wounding 20. In retaliation for the Beit Israel suicide bombing on 3/2, **IDF** helicopters rocket the **PA** headquarters, a small factory in Bethlehem. The **IDF** also shells the **PA military intelligence** office in Salfit, killing **1 PA intelligence officer**, wounding 5; shells a building within **Arafat's** compound in Ramallah; briefly invades Qalqilya. In Gaza, an **AMB gunman** fatally shoots an **IDF soldier**. **Sharon** convenes his **inner cabinet** to chart an intensified policy of "sustained military pressure" against the **PA, militant Palestinian groups, Jewish settlers** rally outside the PM's residence in Jerusalem, demanding harsher attacks on the Palestinians. **100s of Hamas supporters** rally in Jabaliya. **Arafat** condemns the Beit Israel attack, but says nothing about the day's AMB strikes. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/3; AFP, XIN 3/3 in WNC 3/4; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT

3/4; MM 3/5; AKH 3/6 in WNC 3/7; WJW 3/7; MEI 3/8; JP 3/15)

4 MARCH

In an apparent assassination attempt aimed at **Hamas political leader Hussein Abu Kuwayk**, the **IDF** fires rockets at a truck in Ramallah, killing **Abu Kuwayk's wife** and **3 children**, plus **2 Palestinian bystanders**. The **IDF** reenters **Jenin r.c.**, sparking heavy street fighting that leaves at least **9 Palestinians** dead, including a doctor killed when his ambulance is hit by an IDF tank shell, also wounding 5 paramedics. The IDF also remains in **Balata**; temporarily invades **Rafah r.c.**, killing **3 Palestinians**, bulldozing several **Palestinian homes**; fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** at a checkpoint nr. Qalqilya; shells, destroys the **PSF** headquarters in Bethlehem; fires shells fr. gunboats at the PA headquarters in Gaza City but misses; directs heavy machine gun fire at Tamun. Late in the evening in Tel Aviv, an **AMB gunman** (a Balata resident) kills **3 Israelis**, wounds 31 before being shot dead by a restaurant patron. (AP, JP [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 3/4; HA, HP, NYT, WP, WT 3/5; LAW, MM, PCHR 3/6; MM, WT 3/7; AYM 3/7 in WNC 3/8; MEI 3/8; JP 3/15; MEI 3/22)

Sharon tells journalists, "If the **Palestinians** are not being beaten, there will be no negotiations. The aim is to increase the number of losses on the other side. Only after they have been battered will we be able to conduct talks." (JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP 3/5; *al-Quds* 3/5 in WNC 3/6; MM 3/6; MENA 3/6 in WNC 3/7; *Economist* 3/7; MEI 3/8, 3/22)

5 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian violence continues to escalate, leaving **1 Israeli civilian, 1 Jewish settler**, at least **6 Palestinians** dead. A package bomb planted by a **Jewish vigilante group** called **Revenge of the Innocent Babes** (in reference to the 3/2 Beit Israel attack) explodes on a playground at a Palestinian school in East Jerusalem, injuring 2 teachers, 24 children. In response to the 3/4 AMB attack in Tel Aviv, **IDF F-16s** rocket Palestinian targets across Gaza and in Bethlehem, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm; helicopters fire a missile at a car in Ramallah, killing **3 Palestinians**, including **2 wanted AMB members, Muhanad Abu Halawa and Fawzi Murrar**. The **IDF** also makes incursions into Palestinian areas nr. Bayt Lahia,

Jabaliya, Khan Yunis, Tamun; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bethlehem, al-Khadir, Qalqilya; demolishes greenhouses in Issawiyya. Nr. Gush Etzion settlement, **Palestinian gunmen** fire on a **Jewish settler** vehicle, killing **1 settler**. A **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device on a bus in Afula, Israel, killing **1 Israeli**. **Palestinians** also launch 2 Qassam-2s fr. Gaza into Israel, for the 1st time hitting an apartment building in Sederot, injuring 2 children. **Jewish settlers** attack a PSF post in Qalqilya, stone a Palestinian car nr. Ramallah. (HP, MM 3/5; LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, PMC, WP, WT 3/6; MA 3/6 in WNC 3/7; AYM 3/7 in WNC 3/8; MEI 3/8; JP 3/15)

Sharon convenes his **inner cabinet**, then his **full cabinet** to discuss how to respond to the 3/4 Tel Aviv attack. Participants reportedly debate launching massive "mopping-up" operations in refugee camps, incursions into a list of villages in areas A and B, escalating attacks on Ramallah (including removing **Arafat**). The cabinet gives the IDF "free rein to further intensify military pressure on the PA, especially in Ramallah," bars all Palestinian vehicular traffic in the West Bank. (MM 3/5; NYT, PMC, WP, WT 3/6)

6 MARCH

Retaliating for the firing of Qassam-2s on 3/5, the **IDF** launches air, land, sea strikes on PA targets across the West Bank and Gaza, striking and partially demolishing **Arafat**'s residence in Gaza City and an **UNRWA** school for the blind, among other sites. The **IDF** also shells the PA compound in Ramallah while **Arafat** is meeting with **EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos**; they are not injured. **Sharon** vows to continue the strikes "without letup" until the Palestinians stop attacking Israeli soldiers, civilians. During the day, at least **13 Palestinians** are killed, including **senior Hamas mbr. 'Abd al-Nassar Ghazal** in a possible assassination in Gaza, **4 PA naval police** killed by IDF shelling in Gaza, 1 Palestinian shot dead nr. Nablus, 1 killed in a questionable explosion nr. Qalqilya, 4 who die of injuries received earlier. **2 IDF soldiers** are killed in clashes in Khan Yunis and Rafah. F-16s bomb a Gaza police headquarters where PSF officers had been scheduled to meet, leading the PA to believe the attack was a failed assassination attempt against **PSF chief Brig. Gen. 'Abd al-Raziq Majayda**. The **IDF** also makes arrest raids and demolishes at least **2 Palestinian houses** in Gaza; fires on a Palestinian

school in Silat al-Dahir, injuring 4 students; bulldozes Palestinian land in al-Khadir; maintains closure on Balata, Jenin. More than 20 **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar fire on a neighboring Palestinian village; attack IDF soldiers who intervene, beating them, puncturing tires on their jeeps. **Jewish settlers** also cut down 300 Palestinian-owned olive trees nr. Hebron; **IDF** troops fire warning shots at Palestinians who attempt to intervene. (AP, HP, MM 3/6; AFP, *al-Quds* 3/6 in WNC 3/7; JP [Internet], LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/7; MENA, RNE 3/7 in WNC 3/8; JP 3/15)

7 MARCH

Israel's air, land, and sea assaults continue, leaving at least **16 Palestinians** dead, more than 70 injured. The **IDF** enters Tulkarm r.c. and Nur al-Shams r.c., meeting fierce resistance. In Tulkarm r.c., **IDF** fire kills **2 Palestinian ambulance workers**, wounds 4 others, plus 10s of Palestinians. **IDF soldiers** halt an ambulance in Salem, abduct a wounded Palestinian. After a **Hamas gunman** sneaks into Atzmona settlement in Gaza and opens fire, killing **5 Jewish settlers** and wounding 23 before being shot dead, the **IDF** sends 10s of tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs) into Aida, Bethlehem, Dahaysha, 2 neighboring villages, meeting little resistance; soldiers cut electricity, conduct house-to-house searches, occupy numerous homes and schools as observation and staging posts. F-16s bomb PA security offices in Bethlehem, destroying the **Force 17** headquarters, a clinic. A **PFLP suicide bomber** detonates a device in Ariel settlement, lightly injuring 5 settlers; another **Palestinian** with a large bomb in a backpack is captured, disarmed in a Jerusalem cafe. A **Palestinian gunman** seriously wounds a **Jewish settler** nr. Nablus. **IDF** gunboats shell **PA** government buildings, political offices, intelligence headquarters, and a PSF compound in Gaza City, injuring 13 PSF officers and leaving only 2 of 25 buildings in the compound standing. The **IDF** also sends tanks into Jenin; shells PSF offices in Halhul, Hebron, Yatta; shells, destroys the PFLP headquarters in Bayt Hanun; invades the **Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce**, confiscating files related to Palestinian land, property ownership; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Tayasir, Jenin; fires on a Palestinian school in Hawara. Some **150 Israeli intelligence officers, border police, troops** seal off the Jabal Mukabir section of **East Jerusalem**, where they surround the

home of **human rights activist Khader Shkirat**, briefly take him into custody, search his home. (AP, CNN, HP, LAW, NYT, WP 3/7; AFP 3/7 in WNC 3/8, 3/11; LAW, MM, NYT, WP 3/8; MA 3/8 in WNC 3/11; LAW 3/13, 3/20; MEI 3/22)

U.S. Pres. George W. Bush orders **U.S. special envoy Anthony Zinni** back to the region to attempt to secure an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire. (AP 3/7; NYT, WP, WT 3/8; MM 3/11; AYM 3/12 in WNC 3/14; MEI 3/22)

8 MARCH

Israel intensifies its offensive across the West Bank and Gaza, leaving more than **40 Palestinians dead** (including **3 paramedics**), 200 injured—the highest single-day toll since the al-Aqsa intifada began. **1 IDF soldier** is also killed. Early in the morning, the **IDF** sends troops into Khuza' village nr. Khan Yunis, killing **16 Palestinians**, including **PSF regional cmdr. Maj. Gen. Ahmad Mifraj**. In Bayt Hanina, the **IDF** are photographed executing a handcuffed **AMB mbr.** in custody. The **IDF** continues house-to-house searches in Aida and Dahaysha, leaving 6 Palestinians dead. Another 6 Palestinians are killed in **IDF** raids in the Tulkarm area, 5 in a helicopter attack on a **PSF** office in Gaza City, 1 in Jenin r.c. A pregnant Palestinian woman, her baby die when the **IDF** bars their transportation to a Tulkarm hospital. In Tulkarm r.c., the **IDF** calls on all men age 15–45 to surrender for questioning. The **IDF** shells at least 1 building on Bethlehem University campus. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** fatally shoot 1 Palestinian allegedly preparing to detonate a suicide bomb. 10s of armed **Jewish settlers**, accompanied by several **IDF** jeeps, raid Hawara village, nr. where a settler was wounded on 3/7, damaging homes, firing in the air. The **PSF** arrests **PFLP mbr. Majid Rimawi**, the 4th Palestinian wanted by Israel in connection with the Ze'evi assassination. (BDL, LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/8; MENA 3/8, *al-Quds* 3/9, SA 3/10 in WNC 3/11; BDL, GS, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 3/9; PMC, WP 3/10; *Le Monde* 3/10 in WNC 3/13; LAW 3/13).

9 MARCH

Israel shells, sends troops into Dahaysha; conducts air raids (including **F-16s**) against targets across Gaza and in Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. The **IDF** continues operations in Bethlehem, coming within a mile of the Church of the Nativity; raids a village nr.

Rafah, ordering Palestinian men ages 15–45 to surrender; makes incursions into Birzeit, Jifna. The **IDF** attempts to assassinate **senior AMB mbr. Samir Awais**, firing missiles at his car, killing his brother, the car's only occupant, by mistake. Late in the evening, **2 AMB gunman** open fire and throw grenades in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya, killing **2 Israelis**, **1 Israeli Arab**, wounding 24 before being shot dead. Hrs. later, a **Hamas suicide bomber** detonates a device in a Jerusalem cafe, killing **11 Israelis**, wounding 50. The **IDF** reportedly has detained some **600 Palestinian men, boys** in Tulkarm r.c. since 3/8. (BDL, HP 3/9; NYT, WP, WT 3/10; JP [Internet], MM 3/11; LAW 3/13)

10 MARCH

In response to the 2 suicide attacks on 3/9, the **IDF** destroys **Arafat's Gaza City headquarters**, firing 30 missiles at the compound fr. the air, sea. **IDF** sends 50 tanks, APCs into Qalqilya; continues operations in Dahaysha (demolishing at least 4 **Palestinian houses**); directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Beitunia, Hebron, Jabaliya, Jalazone, Khan Yunis, Tal al-Sultan; blows up the house of **senior AMB mbr. Yahya Dahamsa** in Artas, demolishes 2 other homes in Dayr al-Balah; bulldozes agricultural land in Bayt Hanun; masses troops around refugee camps nr. Ramallah. In Ashdod, a **Palestinian** opens fire, wounding 1 Israeli before being captured. Another **Palestinian gunman** fatally shoots an **IDF soldier** outside Netzarim settlement, is shot dead by a settlement guard. At least **6 Palestinians** are killed during the day: The brother of a senior Fatah leader is killed when **IDF** helicopters fire a missile at his car in what is thought to be a botched assassination attempt. The **IDF** fires on a car nr. Sur al-Bahir, killing **2 Palestinians** allegedly en route to stage a bombing in Jerusalem; fatally shoots an **11-yr.-old Palestinian boy** at an **IDF** checkpoint nr. Ramallah, **2 Palestinians** nr. Nablus. Late in the evening, the **IDF** shells Bethlehem, Dahaysha. (HP, LAW, NYT, PMC, REU, WP 3/10; AFP 3/10 in WNC 3/11; NYT, WP, WT 3/11; LAW 3/13)

11 MARCH

The **IDF** raids **Jabaliya** r.c. in Gaza, killing **18 Palestinians**, injuring 10s. Another **6 Palestinians** are killed elsewhere, including 2 killed in the ongoing incursion into Qalqilya, where soldiers conduct predawn

house-to-house searches. **IDF** troops are also reported in Gaza's Bureij r.c., the West Bank's Amari r.c., Beitunia. The IDF bulldozes the Jabaliya house of the family of a Palestinian gunman who killed 5 settlers on 3/7; blows up several workshops the IDF claims manufactured mortars, rockets; shells Gaza sites fr. the sea. To date, the **IDF** reportedly has rounded up **more than 2,000 Palestinian men** ages 15–45 in the refugee camps, writing numbers on their arms to facilitate their processing; only 6 of those detained were on Israel's wanted list; many have been released (e.g., 66 of 500 detained in Tulkarm are still being held). **Sharon** says **Arafat** may leave Ramallah, but forbids him to travel outside the West Bank, Gaza. (AFP, AP, HA, HP 3/11; AFP, AP, BBC, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/12; MENA 3/12 in WNC 3/13; MENA 3/12, *al-Quds* 3/13 in WNC 3/14; LAW, MM, WP 3/13; MEI 3/22)

12 MARCH

In another escalation, **Israel** sends as many as **20,000 troops, 150 tanks and APCs** into Amari, Ramallah. Palestinians fight back with guns, hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), lightly injuring 2 IDF soldiers. The **IDF** orders all Palestinian men ages 15–45 to surrender, but few comply. The **PA**, which previously instructed **PSF** officers to comply, orders all Palestinians to ignore the order. **IDF troops** direct heavy machine gun fire at the City Inn hotel, where foreign journalists are based to cover the fighting, hitting an **ABC** camera at least 7 times, including one shot through the lens; soldiers claimed there were gunmen in the hotel despite journalists' denials. The **Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)** suspends operations in Ramallah, citing numerous attacks on medical workers by the IDF, even in cases where PRCS movements were coordinated with the IDF in advance. The **IDF** bulldozes Ramallah's main water line; tanks crush cars. At least **30 Palestinians** are killed during the day, including at least 2 shot by IDF snipers inside their Ramallah homes for no apparent reason, a PA naval policeman killed when the IDF shells his Dayr al-Balah post, 4 killed in Khan Yunis when the IDF shells a metal workshop thought to be a mortar factory, 1 fatally shot and allowed to bleed to death in Hebron. In Ramallah, the **AMB** kills **1 Palestinian collaborator**. Outside Shlomi in n. Israel, **2 gunmen** open fire, killing **5 Israeli**

civilians, 1 IDF soldier before being shot dead; the IDF believes the gunmen may be **Hizballah** mbrs. who infiltrated fr. Lebanon. A **Jewish settler** is fatally shot in the West Bank. The IDF says that since 2/28, it has confiscated 10s of light weapons, some rockets and mortars; destroyed at least 12 bomb-making workshops; detained more than 2,500 Palestinians. (MM, PRCS press release, REU 3/12; HA, MM, NYT, *Palestine Report*, WP, WT 3/13; LAW 3/20; MEI 3/22)

The **UNSC** passes (14-0, with **Syria** abstaining) Res. 1397, for the 1st time explicitly endorsing the creation of "two states, Israel and Palestine," living side by side in secure and recognized borders. (MENA 3/12, AFP, XIN 3/13 in WNC 3/14; AP, NYT, WP, WT 3/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/14; AN, JT, MENA, SA 3/14 in WNC 3/15; DUS 3/14, MENA 3/15, JT 3/17 in WNC 3/18; MM 3/15; MM 3/21; MEI 3/22) (see Doc. A1; Quarterly Update)

13 MARCH

Israel's sweep of Ramallah intensifies during the day and then diminishes somewhat in the evening, leaving a **Force 17 officer, an IDF soldier** dead. **IDF** soldiers also fatally shoot an **Italian photographer** outside the City Inn, hitting him 6 times in the chest; the area was calm at the time. An **Egyptian** and a **French journalist** are also wounded, and the **IDF** occupies the **Associated Press** offices as an outpost. The **IDF** cuts electricity, water to 1 Ramallah hospital. **PRCS** resumes service in Ramallah, noting that at least **2 Palestinians** have died fr. the IDF denial of medical treatment in the past 24 hrs. The **IDF** says that during exchanges of fire, ambulances must coordinate their movements with the IDF, submit to IDF inspections of up to 10 mins. to assure that they are not transporting gunmen. The **IDF** reinforces troops in Bethlehem. **2 Palestinians** enter Nachliel settlement, knife and wound **2 Jewish settlers**, then escape. (AP 3/13; AFP, QA 3/13 in WNC 3/14; HP, NYT, WP, WT 3/14)

14 MARCH

Just before **Zinni** arrives, **Israel** begins pulling back gradually fr. Ramallah. The **U.S., PA** say that is not enough, with the State Dept. publicly stating, "We want to see a full withdrawal" fr. area A, including all Palestinian towns, refugee camps. During the day, at

least **5 Palestinians** are killed in Ramallah, **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/5; 2 explosions nr. Tulkarm kill **6 Palestinians** (including **senior AMB mbr. Mutasim Makhluḥ**) in what are thought to be assassinations; **2 Palestinian collaborators** are killed by **Fatah Hawks mbrs.** in Bethlehem. In an incident similar to that on 2/14, **Palestinian assailants** detonate a powerful roadside bomb in Gaza, destroying a **Merkava tank**, killing **3 IDF soldiers**, wounding 2; the **AMB, PFLP** each claim responsibility. In al-Bireh and nr. Ramallah, **Palestinians** fire RPGs at 2 tanks, damaging them. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on Gilo settlement, causing no damage. In retaliation, the **IDF** sends tanks into the heart of **Bethlehem**, firing repeatedly at a Catholic maternity hospital and orphanage, which houses 16 patients and 50 children ages 5 and younger, causing damage but no injuries. **IDF** shelling, heavy machine gun fire are also reported in 'Ayn Arik, Beitunia, al-Irsal, al-Tira, Umm al-Sharayit. The **IDF** demolishes 15 **Palestinian homes** in al-Mighraqa village in Gaza; makes arrest raids into al-Naḩura, Shu'fat. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'ale Mikhmas, guarded by **IDF soldiers**, attack and drive off several bedouin families camping nr. the settlement. (AFP 3/13, MA, QA, XIN 3/14 in WNC 3/15; HP, LAW, MM 3/14; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/15; *Die Presse* [Vienna] 3/15, *al-Quds* 3/16 in WNC 3/18; LAW 3/20; MEI 3/22)

Zinni meets with local reps. of the **Quartet**—an ad hoc diplomatic formation of the **EU, Russia, UN, U.S.** employed at times when presenting a united international front may more effectively press Israel and the PA to take a desired course of action. He then meets with **Sharon**. (XIN 3/14 in WNC 3/15; MM, NYT, WT 3/15; MEI 3/22)

15 MARCH

The **IDF** withdraws to the outskirts of **Aida, Amari, Dahaysha, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tulkarm** but remains in **Bayt Jala, Bethlehem, Hebron**, some other PA-controlled areas. The **IDF** fatally shoots **3 Palestinians** in Gaza, a **Palestinian mother** and **4 children** are killed by a mine in Bureij, **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/11, and a **Palestinian collaborator** is killed in Qalqilya. The **IDF** also demolishes **4 Palestinian homes** in Bayt Lahia. (AP 3/15; NYT, WP, WT 3/16; LAW 3/20)

Zinni meets with **Ben-Eliezer, Israeli FM Shimon Peres**, other Israeli officials all day; then goes to Ramallah for a 2-hr. mtg.

with **Arafat**. (AP, NYT, WT 3/15; NYT, WP 3/16; MENA 3/17 in WNC 3/18; MM 3/18; MEI 3/22)

16 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian violence is down sharply. The **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** taxi driver in Hebron, where Palestinian residents are under curfew; kills **3 Palestinians** in Gaza. A **Jewish settler** shoots, wounds a Palestinian girl in Hebron. The **IDF** directs heavy machine gun fire at Palestinian residential areas of Hebron; conducts arrest raids nr. Jenin. In Nablus, Palestinians kill **2 collaborators**. (WT 3/17; LAW 3/20)

17 MARCH

The **IDF** sends additional tanks, troops into Bayt Jala and Bethlehem, fatally shooting at least **1 Palestinian**. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** in Gaza; a **4th Palestinian** dies in a mysterious explosion in Anata; a **5th Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/15. In Kefar Saba nr. Tel Aviv, an **AMB mbr.** with a handgun fires on a crowd, killing **1 Israeli**, injuring 12 before being shot dead by police, bystanders. In French Hill settlement in East Jerusalem, an **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device at a bus stop, lightly injuring **9 Jewish settlers**. **Jewish settlers** ambush, stone a Palestinian car nr. Nablus, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian; attempt to raid Kafr Harith village but are blocked by **IDF** troops. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Bayt Awwa, Kharras, Shu'fat; demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** nr. Dayr al-Balah; reopens the Rafah, Allenby Bridge crossings into Gaza, the West Bank; allows some Palestinian exports fr. Gaza through the Qarni checkpoint into Israel. (HP, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/18; LAW 3/20)

Zinni arranges low-level **PA-Israeli security** mtgs. (JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/18; AYM 3/22 in WNC 3/25)

18 MARCH

The **IDF** begins withdrawing fr. Bayt Hanun, Bayt Jala, Bethlehem, Jenin. The **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** nr. Netzarim; makes incursions and directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas in and around Dayr al-Balah, demolishing **2 Palestinian homes**; conducts arrest raids in Bayt Umar, al-Jadida; directs heavy machine gun fire at Aida r.c. **Hamas** fires 2 Qassam missiles at Ashkelon, causing no damage. In East

Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** demolish a Palestinian bus station. (HP 3/18; Mezan, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/19; LAW 3/20)

Zinni convinces Israel, the PA to resume **trilateral security comm.** mtgs. (HA, HP 3/18; XIN 3/18 in WNC 3/19; MM, NYT, WP 3/19; QA, XIN 3/19 in WNC 3/20; MEI 3/22)

19 MARCH

The **IDF** completes its withdrawal to the outskirts of Bayt Jala, Bethlehem. Before dawn, **2 Palestinian gunmen** infiltrate an **IDF** camp in the Jordan Valley, fire on paratroopers, killing 1, wounding 3 before being shot dead. The **IDF** fatally shoots a **3d Palestinian** outside his shop in Bayt Omar; conducts arrest raids in Dayr Istya, Dahariyya. Armed **Jewish settlers** fire on a Palestinian school in Silat al-Dahir, injuring a 12-yr.-old boy. (AP, MM 3/19; LAW, NYT, WT 3/20)

20 MARCH

An **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device on a bus in Umm al-Fahm, killing **4 IDF soldiers**, **3 Israelis**, injuring 27. The **PA** immediately denounces the attack, stressing that attacks on Israeli civilians inside Israel are unacceptable. (AP, JP [Internet], MM 3/20; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/21; AYM 3/21 in WNC 3/22)

21 MARCH

The **IDF** makes arrest raids into several PA-controlled villages in the West Bank, Rafah. In response to the raids, an **AMB suicide bomber** detonates a device in West Jerusalem, killing **3 Israelis**, wounding 40. **Arafat** immediately strongly condemns the bombing, vows to arrest those behind it, phones local Palestinian leaders and holds a mtg. with the heads of Palestinian factions to urge against such attacks. **Sharon**, his **inner cabinet** discuss taking massive military actions but decide to delay retaliation during **Zinni's** mission; cancel **trilateral security comm.** mtgs. for 1 day instead. (AFP, AP, MM 3/21; AKH 3/21 in WNC 3/22; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/22; SA 3/24 in WNC 3/27; MM 3/25; PCHR 3/27)

In Ramallah, **Arafat** meets with **senior PA officials, heads of the nationalist and Islamist groups** to urge them to halt attacks targeting Israeli civilians. (**Islamic Jihad** does not attend.) Some groups (e.g., **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Pales-**

tine [DFLP], Hamas) oppose declaring a formal cease-fire unless Israel agrees to take steps in return. (*al-Quds* 3/22 in WNC 3/25)

22 MARCH

An **AMB suicide bomber** detonates a device at an **IDF** checkpoint outside Jenin, wounding **1 IDF soldier**. The **IDF** continues operations in **PA-controlled areas** nr. Hebron and Nablus, fatally shooting **1 Palestinian**. The **IDF** fatally shoots another **2 Palestinians** in separate incidents in Gaza; a **5th Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/21. (ITAR-TASS 3/22 in WNC 3/25; HP, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 3/23; PCHR 3/27)

23 MARCH

Israel sends bulldozers, tanks, troops into Rafah r.c., demolishing **3 Palestinian homes**; troops fire a tank shell at stone-throwing Palestinians, killing **3 Palestinians**, including 1 bystander. The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** nr. Dugit settlement (allegedly **Hamas** mbrs. preparing to throw a hand grenade). A **Palestinian child** shot by the **IDF** on 3/21 dies. Palestinians throw a grenade at troops nr. Rafah, try to set off a roadside bomb in the West Bank, causing no damage or injuries. (HP, PMC 3/23; WP, WT 3/24; PCHR 3/27)

24 MARCH

Jordanian security fires on a suspicious car nr. the Israeli border, killing **2 men**; **4 Arabs** get away, infiltrate the border, are tracked and fatally shot by the **IDF** in the n. Galilee. The **IDF** also shoots dead **4 Palestinians** in Gaza. **Palestinian gunmen** fatally shoot **2 Jewish settlers** nr. Hebron, nr. Ramallah. (HP 3/24; HA, MM, NYT, PMC, WP, WT 3/25; PCHR 3/27)

Zinni presents **Israel**, the **PA** with "bridging proposals" for 3-phase implementation of a cease-fire agmt.; gives the sides until 3/26 to respond. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/25; *al-Quds* 3/26 in WNC 3/27; MM 3/27)

25 MARCH

Early in the morning, the **IDF** raids Rafah r.c., killing **1 Palestinian**; razes 30 dunams of Palestinian land in Khan Yunis. **IDF** shells also hit Hebron's Polytechnic University while classes are in session, injuring 3 Palestinian students. (NYT 3/25; NYT, PMC 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

26 MARCH

When **2 AMB mbrs.** are halted by soldiers at an **IDF** checkpoint into Jerusalem, they detonate a bomb, killing only themselves. Unidentified gunmen open fire on a car on a road typically used by Jewish settlers, killing **2 mbrs. of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) observer force**, wounding 1; the car is clearly marked as a TIPH vehicle. The wounded TIPH mbr. says the gunman wore a **PSF** uniform and carried a Kalashnikov rifle; the PA denies any connection. (AP, HA, MM 3/26; NYT, WP, WT 3/27; AFP, ATL 3/27 in WNC 3/28; ATL 3/29 in WNC 4/1; JP 4/5)

Under strong pressure fr. the **U.S.**, **Sharon** agrees to allow **Arafat** to travel to Beirut for the **Arab summit** but says he must call for a halt to the intifada and asks the U.S. to agree that Israel could bar him fr. returning if violence continues while he is in Beirut. (In interviews with the press, **Sharon** also says he regrets having promised **Bush** that he will not physically harm **Arafat**.) The **U.S.** refuses Sharon's demand. **Arafat** says he will not go, fearing exile. In response, **Pres. Husni Mubarak of Egypt, King Abdallah of Jordan** say they will not attend the summit. (AP, MM 3/26; ITAR-TASS, MENA 3/26 in WNC 3/27; HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/27; MENA 3/27 in WNC 3/28)

Zinni cancels a **trilateral security comm.** mtg. to discuss his 3/24 bridging proposals, saying the sides are too far apart to bother meeting. (HA 3/26; NYT 3/27; *al-Quds* 3/31 in WNC 4/2)

27 MARCH

In Netanya, in n. Israel, a **Hamas suicide bomber** detonates a device in a hotel restaurant where Israelis are holding Passover dinner, killing at least **19 Israelis**, wounding around 100. The **PA** denounces the bombing, sends **PSF** branches a list of senior Hamas activists it wants arrested. The **IDF** shells Palestinian residential areas of Hebron; enters, directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Brazil r.c. (AP, CNN, HA, PCHR 3/27; MM, NYT, PMC, WP, WT 3/28; ITAR-TASS 3/28 in WNC 3/29; MA 3/31 in WNC 4/1; JP, MEI 4/5)

The **Arab summit** opens in Beirut. **Crown Prince Abdallah** presents his 2/17 initiative for consideration. (HA, MM 3/27; AFP, MENA, QA, RMC, SA, XIN 3/27 in WNC 3/28; AKH 3/27, QA, *al-Quds* 3/28 in WNC

3/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/28; HA 4/4; MEI 4/5) (see Quarterly Update)

28 MARCH

A **Hamas gunman** infiltrates Elon Moreh settlement, kills **4 Jewish settlers**. **1 Israeli** injured in the 3/27 Netanya attack dies. The **IDF** closes main roads across Gaza, cutting the Strip into 3 sections. The **PSF** arrests senior **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. **Arafat** issues an urgent appeal for an unconditional cease-fire. **Sharon** convenes his cabinet to discuss the escalating Palestinian attacks. **U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell** phones Sharon to urge against exiling Arafat. The **cabinet** agrees to "totally isolate" Arafat, calls up **20,000 IDF reserves** in preparation for a major assault. (HA 3/28; XIN 3/28 in WNC 3/29; MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 3/29; NYT 3/30; WT 4/1; MEI 4/5; WP 5/6)

The **Arab summit** unanimously adopts the Saudi initiative, pledges \$480 m. in aid to the Palestinians, urges against a U.S. attack on Iraq. (CNN 3/28; *al-Quds*, XIN 3/28 in WNC 3/29; HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/29; *al-Majalah* 3/30 in WNC 4/1; HA 4/4; MEI, MM 4/5) (see Doc. B1)

29 MARCH

The **IDF** launches **Operation Defensive Shield**, sending scores of tanks into Ramallah before dawn to encircle Arafat's compound, reoccupy tall buildings as sniper and observation posts, dig up roads, create roadblocks, demolish water mains, declare a 24-hr. curfew. As the day progresses, the **IDF** bulldozes the compound walls; sends tanks, APCs, armored bulldozers, and troops into the complex, moving room-to-room to collect documents, demolishing 9 of 10 buildings, trapping **Arafat** and his closest aides in a windowless office of the remaining building; **5 Palestinians, 2 IDF soldiers** are killed, around 50 Palestinians are injured, and another 70 (mostly **Force 17** mbrs. guarding the compound but also including **medical workers**) are detained. **IDF** soldiers fire at a Nilesat TV car, seriously injuring a **cameraman**. The **U.S.** states that it "understands the Israeli government's need to respond to these acts of terror." The **Arab states, EU, Russia**, the **UN** condemn Israel's actions. (AP, CNN, MM, REU, WP 3/29; AFP, Interfax, IRNA, ITAR-TASS, MA 3/29, ANSA 3/30 in WNC 4/1; NYT, WP, WT 3/30; WP 3/31; MM 4/2; JP, MEI 4/5) (see Doc. C2)

As Israel's Ramallah operation proceeds, an **18-yr.-old Palestinian girl**, an **AMB mbr.**, detonates a suicide bomb in Jerusalem, killing **2 Israelis**, wounding 31. In Gaza, a **Palestinian gunman** infiltrates Netzarim, fatally shooting **2 Jewish settlers** before being shot dead by the IDF; no group takes responsibility. (NYT, WP, WT 3/30)

30 MARCH

Before dawn, **IDF** tanks, troops take over Bayt Jala, Beitunia (surrounding the offices of **PSF West Bank head Jibril Rajub**). The **IDF** shells buildings in the PA compound; later, restores electricity to Arafat's offices and allows the **PRCS** to bring Arafat and around 100 of his men food, bottled water, cell phone batteries. Most other areas of Ramallah remain without water, electricity. In Tel Aviv, an **AMB suicide bomber** detonates a device in a restaurant, injuring more than 30 Israelis. **IDF** soldiers fatally shoot **2 AMB mbrs.** reportedly armed with explosives, trying to enter Israel. The **IDF** raids buildings in Ramallah, in 1 instance wounding, then executing **5 PSF officers**, raising the confirmed toll in Ramallah for the preceding 2 days to **12 Palestinians**. The **IDF** detains 10s of Palestinians in Ramallah, including, **DFLP dep. secy. gen. Qays Abu Layla**, **PSF dir. of operations Yunis Alass**, **Fatah Central Comm. mbr. Sakhir Habash**, and around **12 paramedics and nurses**, confiscating 3 ambulances; searches a Ramallah hospital for weapons, wounded fighters; orders all Palestinian men in al-Bireh, Ramallah ages 15–45 to surrender; takes over al-Watan TV, airs pornography (reports confirmed by the U.S. consulate). In Tulkarm, the **IDF** assassinates **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Ahad Ajaj**, his cousin. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** search the home of **Mufti Ikrima Sabri**, detain him for questioning; arrest **senior Fatah mbr. Salah Zhikiyya**; fire on Palestinians protesting outside al-Aqsa Mosque, injuring 5. More than **15,000 Palestinians** demonstrate in Gaza City; other protests are held in Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur. (LAW, Mezan, REU 3/30; AFP, ANSA, ATL, IRNA, ITAR-TASS, MENA, XIN 3/30 in WNC 4/1; NYT, *Observer*, WP, WT 3/31; HA 4/2; MEI 4/5)

The **UNSC** approves (14-0, with **Syria** abstaining) Res. 1402, demanding that **Israel** withdraw fr. Ramallah, but (at **U.S.** insistence) without giving a deadline. In his 1st statement on Israel's new campaign, **Bush** says that the U.S. supports **Israel's** right to

“defend itself,” that **Arafat** “can do a lot more” to prevent attacks on Israelis. (MENA, XIN 3/30, JT, MENA 3/31 in WNC 4/1; HA, *Independent*, NYT, WP, WT 3/31; AN, AFP 3/31 in WNC 4/1; AKH 4/1 in WNC 4/3; SA 4/1 in WNC 4/4; MEI 4/5)

31 MARCH

Israel broadens its offensive, reoccupying **Qalqilya**, cutting of electricity, water; directing shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas; occupying tall buildings as sniper, outlook posts. In Ramallah, the **IDF** moves building-to-building, rounding up 10s of Palestinian men ages 15–45 who have not surrendered, killing at least **9 Palestinians**; raids, vandalizes, confiscates files of al-Haq human rights organization, among others; occupies 1 Ramallah hospital, attempts to search a 2d but is blocked by medical workers; declares Ramallah a closed military zone, warning journalists that their press credentials will be revoked if they are found in the city, their bureaus will be fined \$15,000 if they “harbor” Palestinians in their offices. The **IDF** allows **34 foreign peace activists** to meet with **Arafat** in the compound. A **Hamis suicide bomber** detonates a device in a restaurant in Haifa, killing **15 Israelis**, some of them Israeli Arabs. Hrs. later, a **2d Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device in Efrat settlement, wounding **4 Jewish settlers**. **Sharon** convenes his **inner cabinet**, which agrees to intensify military operations further. In Hebron, **1,000 Palestinians** march to protest Israel's actions. (CNN, HA, Reporters Without Borders press release 3/31; IRNA, MA, MENA 3/31 in WNC 4/1; AP, HA, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 4/1; MM 4/2; MEI 4/5)

1 APRIL

With Passover past and 20,000 reserves fully mobilized, the **IDF** reoccupies Bethlehem, setting up a cordon 500 yards fr. the Church of the Nativity, surrounding the PSF West Bank headquarters, declaring a 24-hr. curfew, firing warning shots at a **BBC** camera crew. The **IDF** also sends troops into Aida, Dahaysha, Tulkarm; reinforces troops in Qalqilya, begins house-to-house searches. In Ramallah, the **IDF** continues rounding up Palestinian men, saying that since 3/29, it has detained 700 (10 of them “wanted” men) and seized 19 rifles, 4 pipe bombs, 2 mortars, a “small number of assorted ordnance”; raids, vandalizes, confiscates files fr. more public,

private offices; ejects a 6-person **CBS** news team fr. the city; fires on a clearly marked **NBC** TV vehicle. The **PRCS** says that the **IDF** has halted coordination efforts that guarantee the safe movement of ambulances, medical workers. In Bayt Jala, **100 Palestinians and foreign peace activists** hold a nonviolent march to an IDF checkpoint, where troops open fire in front of them with live ammunition fr. tank-mounted machine guns, wounding 7 foreigners, 1 Palestinian TV cameraman. In total, **13 Palestinians** are killed during the day, including an 11-yr.-old boy shot by the IDF in Gaza. A **Palestinian sniper** kills **1 Jewish settler** in Har Homa. A **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a car bomb at a checkpoint btwn. East and West Jerusalem, killing **1 Israeli police officer**. **Palestinian gunmen** kill **11 Palestinian collaborators**, taking most of them fr. PA jails. Palestinians across the territories hold solidarity rallies to protest Israeli actions. (JP [Internet], NYT, PRCS press release, WP 4/1; *al-Quds* 4/1, AFP 4/2 in WNC 4/3; AFP, AN, ATL, IRNA, MENA, SA 4/1 in WNC 4/1; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/2; MEI 4/5)

2 APRIL

Early in the morning, **IDF** helicopters, tanks attack the **PSF** West Bank headquarters in Beitunia, where some **200 PSF officers and staff** have encamped since 3/30, setting the building ablaze. The **CIA** intervenes to secure the safe evacuation of the staff, surrender of 180 officers, but some refuse to leave. In Ramallah, the **IDF** continues house-to-house searches, stumbling upon **22 PSF officers** hiding in an apartment, fatally shooting 2 though none resist arrest; raids, shuts Ramallah's **al-Quds Educational TV**, arresting 2 employees; revokes the credentials of **2 Abu Dhabi TV journalists**, threatens legal action against **CNN** and **NBC** for broadcasting fr. Ramallah; confiscates **3 ambulances**, detains **9 paramedics**. **PRCS** suspends services in Ramallah, noting the IDF now has 15 medical workers in custody. In the afternoon, the IDF lifts the Ramallah curfew for 3 hrs. so residents can buy food, bury those killed since 3/29 (bodies have been double-stacked in morgues, with no electricity). In Bethlehem, **IDF** troops order all men ages 14–45 to surrender; fight their way to the doorway of the **Church of the Nativity**, where some **200 Palestinian gunmen, civilians** have sought refuge; fire on **20 journalists** on the balcony of the Star Hotel, injuring 1; fire a warning shot at a

clearly marked Reuters car. Palestinians also take refuge in Bethlehem's Omar Mosque, Santa Maria Church, the Russian Orthodox Church and hospice; the IDF surrounds these holy sites, occupies Bethlehem University as its main staging area. In Aida and Dahaysha r.c., the **IDF** orders **Palestinian women ages 15–25**, men ages 15–45 to surrender. A **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device at an IDF checkpoint into Jerusalem, killing only himself, causing no injuries. At least **7 Palestinians** are killed today, including 2 motorists ambushed by **settler vigilante group Tears of the Orphans and Martyrs** (see 3/5) nr. Tulkarm, a mother and son shot by the IDF and allowed to bleed to death, a woman shot dead by an IDF sniper as she left a Ramallah hospital (troops fire on medical workers attempting to retrieve her body). **3 Israelis** injured in the 3/27 Netanya attack die, bringing the toll of the bombing to 23; **1 Israeli** injured in the 3/31 Haifa attack dies, bringing that toll to 16. **Israel** expands its list of "wanted" Palestinians to include some of **Arafat's** top aides, including **intelligence chief Tawfiq Tirawi, PSF 2d in command in Gaza Rashid Abu Shabak, Fatah tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti**, but not **PSF** heads **Dahlan** or **Rajub**. (AP, HA, PRCS press release, NYT, WP, WT 4/2; MENA 4/2 in WNC 4/3; NYT, WP, WT 4/3; WP 4/4; QA 4/4 in WNC 4/5; MEI 4/5)

Sharon tells envoys of **EU, Russia, UN** they may meet with **Arafat** if they agree to escort him into exile. **Peres** proposes that Arafat "voluntarily" leave the territories, seek asylum in foreign country. (AP, HA, MM 4/2; AFP 4/2 in WNC 4/3; NYT, WP 4/3)

3 APRIL

Before dawn, the **IDF** sends tanks into Jenin r.c., meeting heavy resistance, leaving at least **6 Palestinians** (including 1 doctor), **1 IDF reservist** dead. **1 Israeli** wounded in the 3/27 Netanya bombing dies, bringing that toll to 24. The **IDF** reoccupies Nablus; reports operations in Beitunia, Dahaysha, Qalqilya, Salfit, Tamun, Taysir, Tubas, Tulkarm. In Ramallah, the **IDF** raids, confiscates files of **PA ministries**, the **PC**. The **International Comm. of the Red Cross (ICRC)** criticizes the **IDF** for hampering relief operations in Bethlehem; the **PRCS** estimates that **14 Palestinians** have died in the city since 4/1, including 5 killed today. **10s of Christian clergymen**, including **Latin patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah**,

attempt to walk to Bethlehem to mediate a resolution to siege of the Church of the Nativity and other holy sites, but they are blocked by the **IDF**. **Israeli police** use tear gas, batons to disperse **2,000 Israeli, Palestinian peace activists** attempting to cross al-Ram checkpoint in Jerusalem to bring food, medicine to Ramallah, injuring 20. (HA, MM, NYT 4/3; NYT, WP, WT 4/4)

4 APRIL

Israel expands its offensive, briefly entering the Palestinian sector of Hebron; sending more tanks into Jenin r.c., Nablus. Heavy house-to-house fighting is reported in Bethlehem, Jenin r.c., with the **IDF** reportedly shelling areas of Jenin r.c. Palestinians report around **20 Palestinians** dead in various locales; **4 IDF soldiers** are also killed. The **IDF** says it has detained nearly 1,200 Palestinians since 3/29. The **IDF** continues to block **Doctors Without Borders, ICRC, PRCS** fr. delivering critical supplies to hospitals in occupied Palestinian towns. (BBC 4/4; NYT, WP, WT 4/5; MEI 5/3)

Bush for the 1st time publicly demands that **Israel** halt incursions, withdraw fr. areas reoccupied since 3/29, halt settlement activity, but gives no timetable; says **Arafat** is mostly to blame for the crisis; calls on "responsible Palestinian leaders" to step forward; announces he is sending **Powell** to the region. **Sharon** says Operation Defensive Shield will continue. (AP, MM 4/4; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/5; MENA 4/5 in WNC 4/8; WP 5/6) (see Doc. C3)

5 APRIL

The **IDF** sends reinforcements into Tubas, where troops bombard a home, killing wanted **Izzeddine al-Qassam Brigades regional cmdr. Qays Udwan, 5 other Hamas mbrs.** Heavy Israeli attacks are reported in Askar r.c., Jenin r.c., Nablus (where the **IDF** shells, destroys the eastern market area), Yatta. Around **25–35 Palestinians** (including as many as **8 collaborators**) are reported killed, including the 6 in Tubas, 12 in Nablus; **1 IDF soldier** is killed in Jenin r.c. An **IDF** helicopter fires at the car of **wanted Islamic Jihad mbr. Ziyad Shuwayki** in Hebron, missing him but injuring 11 bystanders. **IDF** troops search, vandalize the home of **Nablus mayor Ghassan Shaka** (who is not home), arrest his 2 sons. Troops also raid the Ramallah home of **PA Information M Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh**, detain him

while they search; fire on a diplomatic convoy evacuating **EU nationals** fr. Dahaysha, causing damage but no injuries. The **IDF** lifts the curfew in Ramallah for a few hrs. to allow Palestinians to buy food; Palestinians discover that the Amwaj, al-Nasr, Watan TV stations and the Ajyal, Angham, Love and Peace, Manara, al-Quds radio stations have been ransacked. The **IDF** says it is still holding around 900 of the 1,200 Palestinians it has detained since 3/29. Late tonight, the **IDF** releases **340 Palestinian detainees** fr. Jenin r.c., Ramallah at the Qalandiyya checkpoint but does not allow them through the crossing to reach their homes; the **UNRWA** allows them to stay in its nearby school. In Gaza, **10,000 Palestinians** attend a Hamas rally against Israel's actions. **Israel** bars Palestinian men under age 40 fr. attending prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. (BBC, HA 4/5; AFP, MENA 4/5 in WNC 4/8; Adalah press release, MSNBC, NYT, WP, WT 4/6; WP 4/8; PCHR 4/9; MEI 4/19; WP 4/24)

In a TV interview, **Bush** says that **Arafat** "certainly hasn't earned" his trust, that "there are others in the regions who can lead," citing **Crown Prince Abdallah, King Abdallah, Mubarak**. (NYT 4/6; *al-Ra'i* 4/6 in WNC 4/8)

6 APRIL

Israel escalates its offensive against the Palestinians, conducting major attacks on Balata, Jenin r.c., Nablus, Ramallah; entering the villages of Qabatiyya, al-Til. At least **50 Palestinians, 5 IDF soldiers** are reported killed during the day. In Gaza, **1 IDF soldier** is killed, 4 are wounded in an exchange with **Islamic Jihad** gunmen reportedly attempting to infiltrate a Jewish settlement; 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. are also killed. In Bethlehem, the **IDF** blows up 9 cars in the farmers' market, collapsing the market's roof, causing a fire damaging several nearby shops. The **IDF** admits it has bulldozed houses in Jenin r.c. to find wanted Palestinians. In Ramallah, the **IDF** allows the **PRCS** to deliver food, water, medicine to Arafat and his men still under siege in the compound, which the **IDF** shells today, injuring 4. The **IDF** allows the **PRCS** to remove 1 injured Palestinian fr. the compound, but after **IDF** TV films fr. the evacuation, soldiers seize the man fr. the ambulance, arrest him. (GS, PMC, **PRCS** press release, UPMRC 4/6; NYT, WP, WT 4/7; NYT 4/8)

Bush phones **Sharon** to say that Israel must begin its withdrawal fr. Palestinian cit-

ies “without delay”; reiterates that **Arafat** has not earned his trust. Sharon says he will “expedite” his operation but does not guarantee it will be completed by the time **Powell** arrives. (NYT, WP, WT 4/7)

7 APRIL

Heavy clashes reported in Jenin r.c., Nablus. At least **14 Palestinians** are killed in Nablus. Another **Israeli** injured in the 3/27 Netanya bombing dies, raising the toll to 25. The **IDF** reopens **Ansar 3** prison to hold **Palestinian detainees**. The **Evangelical Lutheran Church** reports that the **IDF** has severely damaged the Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, breaking in 31 doors and 57 windows, shooting holes in sinks, demolishing computers, vandalizing the gift shop. Some 200 Palestinian fighters, civilians, clergy remain in the **Church of the Nativity**, surrounded by IDF troops. A **PA security court** in Gaza condemns **5 collaborators** to death, sentences a 15-yr.-old collaborator to life in prison. (NYT, WP, WT 4/8; MENA 4/8 in WNC 4/9)

Powell says Bush’s 4/4 demand for an Israeli withdrawal without delay was only a “request”; says he is not expecting to secure a cease-fire during his upcoming trip. The **Israeli cabinet** “overwhelmingly” approves continuing the operation, even if it means defying the U.S. (AFP 4/7; SA 4/7 in WNC 4/8; NYT, WP, WT 4/8; JT, *al-Zaman* 4/8 in WNC 4/9; WP, WT 4/9; WP 4/17; MEI 4/19) (see Quarterly Update)

8 APRIL

The **IDF** escalates attacks on Jenin r.c., firing at least 20 missiles into residential areas, demolishing occupied buildings to widen narrow alleys so tanks can pass, killing at least **30 Palestinians**; **2 IDF soldiers** are also killed. Some **200 Palestinian women, children** suffering fr. dehydration walk out of the camp, 5 days after the IDF cut off water, electricity, food, ambulance access. The **ICRC** says it has only been allowed to evacuate 3 injured Palestinians fr. the camp, 2 of whom were arrested by the IDF. **IDF troops** throw percussion, smoke grenades into **St. Catherine’s church and convent** in the **Church of the Nativity** complex, setting a conference hall afire; exchange gunfire with **PSF** officers who leave the church to put out the blaze, killing 1. After 45 mins., the IDF allows fire fighters into the church to extinguish the blaze, which

causes serious damage. In Nablus, the **IDF** orders Palestinian men ages 19–60 to surrender, in some cases threatening to destroy homes if Palestinians do not turn themselves in. The IDF also allows **ICRC** and **PRCS** medics into Nablus to remove the wounded, bodies of 10 Palestinians killed in recent days of fighting; another 14 bodies were buried in a mosque courtyard earlier, when they could not be removed. In Ramallah, the IDF lifts the curfew for several hrs.; raids, damages offices of **2 Arab TV stations**. (CNN, WP 4/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/9; JT, *al-Quds* 4/9 in WNC 4/10)

Bush publicly reiterates his call for **Sharon** to halt incursions, immediately begin a withdrawal, telling him “I meant what I said.” **Zinni** presses the issue privately with Sharon, who says the IDF will begin pulling out of Qalqilya, Tulkarm within hrs. but will maintain a tight cordon around the 2 towns; vows attacks on other areas will continue “until the mission is completed,” after which he would be willing to hold Madrid-style negotiations with “moderate and responsible Middle Eastern leaders.” (MM 4/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/9; MM 4/10)

9 APRIL

The **IDF** completes its withdrawal to the outskirts of Qalqilya, Tulkarm; makes a fresh incursion into Dura, detaining at least 70 Palestinians. In Jenin r.c., **13 IDF soldiers** conducting house-to-house searches are killed when a **Palestinian suicide bomber** in a building rigged with explosives reportedly detonates a series of devices, collapsing the building, and **Palestinian snipers** fire on soldiers who come to the rescue. In Nablus, a **French TV cameraman** is wounded by IDF gunfire. The **IDF** shells, destroys a **PSF** post in Kefar Rai; bulldozes a **PSF** post, olive groves in Dayr al-Balah. A convoy of **100s of Israeli Arabs** attempting to deliver food to Jenin r.c. is halted outside Jerusalem by **Israeli border police**, attacked by **Jewish settlers**, shot at apparently by an IDF soldier, who wounds 2 before being subdued, arrested. (AFP, AP, BBC, MM, UPMRC, WP, WT 4/9; AP, CNN, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/10; MEI 4/19, 5/3)

10 APRIL

A **Hamas suicide bomber** (a Jenin resident) detonates a device on a bus in Haifa, killing **4 IDF soldiers**, **4 Israeli civilians**, wounding 14. In Jenin, the **IDF** bulldozes

“whole stretches” of **Palestinian homes** in the area where 13 soldiers were killed on 4/9; unconfirmed reports accuse the IDF of burying bodies during the demolitions to hide evidence of a massacre. Villages around Jenin reportedly have taken in 1,000s of Palestinians fleeing the camp in recent days. In Nablus, medical workers say **11 Palestinians** were killed in overnight clashes with the IDF, another 63 injured, bringing the toll since the incursion into the city began to around 60; the **IDF** destroys 4 alleged bomb-making factories, then pulls back fr. the Old City market area, eases attacks in Nablus and nearby al-‘Ayn r.c. (where 25 homes reportedly have been destroyed), calls on survivors to surrender. In Bethlehem, the **IDF** shoots, wounds an **Armenian monk** standing at the window of his room in the **Church of the Nativity** complex; shoots dead **2 Palestinians** who attempt to sneak out of the church to get food, medicine for those inside. **Israel** rejects an appeal by the **Vatican, Greek Orthodox Church, Armenians** for a “safe conduct” agmt. to end the standoff. The **IDF** bars a **UN relief convoy** fr. bringing food, emergency supplies into Ramallah. A **World Bank** delegation says it obtained access to the **PA Central Bureau of Statistics, PA Education Min.** and found both ransacked, computers stripped of hard drives, files purged, safes blasted open, some \$10,000 stolen. Late in the evening, the **IDF** pulls out of Qabatiyya, Samua, Yatta. (AP, CNN, HA, JP [Internet], MM, PMC 4/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/11; *al-Quds* 4/11 in WNC 4/12; MEI 4/19; WP 4/20)

After 3 days of consultations with Arab leaders (see Quarterly Update), **Powell** meets in Madrid with senior **Quartet** reps. (**EU foreign policy dir. Javier Solana, Russian FM Igor Ivanov, UN Secy.-Gen. Annan**), who issue a statement fully backing his mission. (RMC 4/10 in WNC 4/11; MM, NYT, WP 4/11) (see Doc. A4)

11 APRIL

The **IDF** pulls back fr. 22 small West Bank villages but sends forces into Birzeit, Dahariyya, ‘Ayn Bayt Himla r.c. nr. Ramallah and briefly reenters Tulkarm to make arrests. In Birzeit, troops occupy the main **PSF** station, begin house-to-house searches. The **IDF** lifts the curfews on Jenin r.c. (which it says it has quelled), Nablus for several hrs. for the 1st time since 4/3; pulls troops back fr. the old city in Nablus, allowing residents, some journalists and local medical workers

to see the extent of devastation for the 1st time. The **IDF** continues to bar **ICRC, UNRWA** teams fr. entering the towns. In Jenin r.c., the **IDF** fatally shoots a **13.-yr.-old boy** who gets “too close” to an IDF tank post during the break in curfew; continues to bulldoze buildings. In Nablus, the local hospital says the morgue is filled to capacity; it has had to move in a refrigerated truck to handle overflow. **PA officials** who reach Ramallah’s city hall report that the **IDF** has ransacked and burned the building, confiscated or destroyed documents, particularly relating to Palestinian landownership. In Hebron, a **Palestinian suicide bomber** reportedly detonates a device nr. an IDF checkpoint, injuring several bystanders. (AFP, AP, WP 4/11; BBC, NYT, WP, WT 4/12)

On arrival in Tel Aviv, **Powell** is greeted by **Sharon**, who says the IDF is “not about to leave” Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah; even when troops pull out, they will surround and seal the cities (as they are doing to Qalqilya, Tulkarm) to ensure there are no “terrorist” attacks. The **White House** says **Bush** never expected Israel to halt incursions, withdraw fr. PA areas in “a mere eight days”; says Bush considers Sharon to be a “man of peace.” (AP 4/11; NYT, WP, WT 4/12; MEI 4/19)

12 APRIL

A **female AMB suicide bomber** detonates a device at a bus station in Jerusalem, killing **6 Israelis**, injuring around 50. In Jenin r.c., eyewitnesses report that **IDF** bulldozers are burying Palestinian bodies; **Israel** says it is merely burying the dead to prevent a health crisis; the **IDF** says it plans to move corpses to a remote “enemy’s cemetery” in the Jordan Valley. **Sharon’s** office says the **200 Palestinians** in the **Church of the Nativity** can end their siege by either submitting themselves to trial in an IDF military court or going into exile abroad. The **IDF** raids the **PA Agriculture Min.** offices in Ramallah; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** shopkeeper in Bayt Sahur. In Gaza’s Jabaliya r.c., **30,000 Palestinians** attend a **Hamas** rally. (AP, HA, LAW 4/12; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 4/13; MM 4/16)

In talks with **Powell, Sharon** refuses to set a timetable for withdrawal fr. PA areas, says he will not hold any political talks as long as violence continues, recommends a Madrid-style peace conference once a cease-fire is in place. (AP, CNN, MM 4/12; NYT, WP, WT 4/13; XIN 4/15 in WNC 4/16; MM

4/16; MENA, *al-Quds* 4/16 in WNC 4/17; MEI 4/19; *al-Quds* 4/19 in WNC 4/22)

13 APRIL

The **IDF** makes new incursions into 6 Palestinian villages, including Burkin (next to Jenin r.c.); lifts the curfew in Jenin r.c. for several hrs. In Bethlehem, **IDF** soldiers shoot a Palestinian in the **Church of the Nativity** complex, allow him to bleed to death. Those inside the church say they are almost out of food and water, can no longer pump water fr. their well because the IDF has cut electricity. In Nablus, **aid workers** rescue an **elderly Palestinian couple** fr. the rubble of their home, which was bulldozed on 4/5, killing **8 family mbrs.** including 3 children. Also in Nablus, the **IDF** arrests **most-wanted AMB mbr. Naseer Awais.** In Ramallah, the **IDF** ransacks, occupies the **Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center**, several **PA offices.** Reporters allowed entry into the **old cities of Bethlehem, Nablus** report major damage to historic buildings, several Bethlehem University buildings (including the library), many new projects financed with donor aid for the Bethlehem 2000 celebrations. (Sakakini Center press release 4/13; WP 4/14; WP 4/15; AYM 4/22 in WNC 4/25)

14 APRIL

In Bethlehem, **IDF** soldiers conducting house-to-house searches blow the door off an apartment without warning, killing a **Palestinian woman.** The **IDF** allows 1 **PRCS** ambulance into Jenin r.c. to collect the bodies of 7 Palestinians. **IDF soldiers** admit using Palestinians in Jenin r.c. as human shields. (HA, LAW, WP, WT 4/14; NYT, UPMRC, WP, WT 4/15; MM 4/16; MEI 4/19)

Powell meets **Arafat** in Ramallah, discusses the idea of holding a regional or international conference. (NYT, WP, WT 4/15; JT, *al-Quds*, SA 4/15 in WNC 4/16; MM 4/16; MEI 4/19)

15 APRIL

Sharon says the **IDF** will pull out of Jenin, Nablus and begin to discharge reservists within a wk. but will stay in Bethlehem, Ramallah until wanted Palestinians there are captured or exiled. The **IDF** enters 2 more West Bank villages; lifts the curfews on Bethlehem, Ramallah for a few hrs. In Ramallah, **IDF** commando units arrest Fatah's **Barghouti** (see 4/2). The **IDF** now says it has de-

tained more than **5,000 Palestinians** since 3/29. **UNRWA** workers are allowed part way into **Jenin r.c.** for the 1st time since 4/3 but are barred fr. distributing food, water, medicine. Journalists who reach the center of the camp say the IDF has "obliterated" 2 city blocks of the main residential area, the "smell of decomposing bodies" hangs in the air, but wks. of work will be needed to determine if a massacre took place. In Bethlehem, **2 ailing Palestinians** fr. the Church of the Nativity surrender; the **IDF** allows relief workers to bring water, medical supplies to those still inside. The **IDF, Palestinian gunmen** briefly exchange fire nr. Manger Square, leaving 1 Palestinian, 2 soldiers wounded. The **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** nr. Qur'a r.c., 1 in al-Doha; a **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (Addameer press release, HA, UPMRC 4/15; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/16; MA 4/16 in WNC 4/18; B'Tselem press release, HA 4/17; AFP, WJW 4/18; MEI 4/19; SA 4/29 in WNC 4/30)

16 APRIL

The **IDF** makes a predawn incursion into Tulkarm to arrest 4 wanted **Hamas** mbrs., pulls out later in the day. **IDF** tanks encircle Askar. In Bethlehem, the **IDF** allows 2 Palestinians to be evacuated fr. the **Church of the Nativity**, 1 who suffered a severe abdominal wound during the siege, another with epilepsy; captures, questions, releases a Palestinian youth who sneaks out of the church to find food. Later, heavy IDF gunfire is reported around the church, sparking a fire in the Greek Orthodox monastery in the church complex. **Hamas** reportedly fires rockets at a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, causing no damage; the **IDF** directs tank, machine gun fire at the suspects, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 2. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** outside Hebron, a **Palestinian boy** playing in his yard in Nablus. **UNRWA** is able to distribute food to 20–30 percent of the estimated 3,000 refugees still in Jenin r.c.; **PRCS** says that 7 Palestinians have been rescued fr. demolished buildings there in the preceding 24 hrs. **Aid workers** try to deliver food to Balata but are barred, assaulted by **IDF** soldiers. (AP, NYT, PRCS press release, UNRWA press release, UPMRC, WP 4/16; B'Tselem press release 4/17)

Powell holds a final mtg. with **Sharon**, says an international peace conference may be held in 6/02. (NYT, WP, WT 4/17)

17 APRIL

Before dawn, the **IDF** sends tanks into the Jerusalem suburbs of Abu Dis, Azariyya, and Sawahira al-Sharqiyya, declaring a curfew. In Azariyya, troops conduct building-to-building searches, sometimes forcing families to evacuate, blowing doors off homes, vandalizing cars and other property. A **Palestinian** is fatally shot by the **IDF** while driving nr. Karma; an ill **Palestinian baby** dies after 10 days without medication. The **IDF** withdraws some tanks fr. Jenin r.c. Palestinians begin to reenter the camp, excavate bulldozed areas; 5 intact bodies are recovered before troops reenter, reimpose the curfew. In Bethlehem, an **IDF sniper** shoots, wounds 1 Palestinian in the **Church of the Nativity** who moved past an open door. (WP 4/17; NYT, WP 4/18; *al-Quds* 4/18 in WNC 4/22)

Powell holds a final mtg. with **Arafat**, stating afterward, "We are disappointed with Chmn. Arafat's performance. We believed all along that he could have done more." He also says **CIA Dir. George Tenet** may come to the region soon to discuss ways for reforming the **PA security forces**. (AFP, AP, HA 4/17; MENA, XIN 4/17 in WNC 4/18; NYT, WP, WT 4/18)

18 APRIL

The **IDF** eases the closure on Jenin r.c. during the day, begins a comprehensive withdrawal to the outskirts of the camp and town by evening. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Qalqilya; lifts the curfew on Bethlehem for 4 hrs.; directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah, killing 2 **Palestinians**; captures wanted **senior Hamas mbr. Husam Ataf Ali Badran** in a raid nr. Nablus, also killing 3 **Palestinians**. A **newborn Palestinian baby** dies when barred by the **IDF** fr. reaching a hospital. (AFP, AP, CNN, HA, MM 4/18; HA, JP [Internet], MEI, NYT, REU, UPMRC, WP, WT 4/19; REU 4/22; MM 4/23; JP [Internet] 4/24; MM 4/30; MEI 5/3)

19 APRIL

The **IDF** completes its pullout fr. Jenin r.c. and town, begins pullout fr. Nablus. An **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device at an **IDF** checkpoint in Gaza, lightly injuring 2 **soldiers**. The **IDF** fatally shoots a total of 7 **Palestinians**, including 2 reportedly attempting to infiltrate **Netzarim settlement**, 2 **Palestinian children** in Ramallah.

In Bethlehem, the **IDF** arrests **wanted Hamas mbr. Khalid Tafish**. (AP, NYT, REU 4/19; NYT, WP, WT 4/20; WT 4/21)

20 APRIL

The **IDF** withdrawals begin in Ramallah, continue in Nablus. In Jenin r.c., a **Palestinian** is rescued fr. a bulldozed building where he had been trapped for 9 days. A **Palestinian gunman** shoots, kills an **Israeli border policeman** at Erez crossing, is then killed by **IDF** tank fire. A 2d **Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (NYT, PRCS press release, WP, WT 4/21)

21 APRIL

The **IDF** completes its withdrawal to the outskirts of Nablus, including evacuating **Jewish settlers** fr. Joseph's Tomb, which the **IDF** retook on 2/11/02; pulls out of Ramallah, except for maintaining a cordon around **Arafat's** compound. **Sharon** announces the end of the "1st stage" of Operation Defensive Shield. Palestinians in areas vacated by the **IDF** report severe vandalism and looting, including attempts to blow open bank safes to steal cash reserves. In Nablus, hospital officials say a total of 75 Palestinians were killed, 160 seriously injured since 4/3; the **IDF** says 1 soldier died fighting in Nablus, 9 were wounded. In Bethlehem, 5 Palestinians fr. the **Church of the Nativity** surrender. In Dahaysha, the **IDF** conducts house-to-house searches, detaining at least 16 Palestinians. (JP [Internet] 4/21; MENA 4/21 in WNC 4/22; JT, MM, NYT, WP 4/22; AYM 4/23 in WNC 4/29; MM 4/29)

22 APRIL

An **IDF soldier** is killed during a raid on a village nr. Nablus; a total of 5 **Palestinians** are killed by the **IDF** during the day, including **senior AMB mbr. Marwan Zallum**, who is assassinated in Hebron. In his Ramallah compound, Arafat opens a military trial of 4 **PFLP mbrs.** (not including **PFLP head Ahmad Saadat**) wanted by Israel for involvement in the Ze'evi assassination; **AMB** gunmen fire on 3 **Palestinian collaborators** in Manara Square, killing 1, wounding 2. In Bethlehem, a serious exchange of gunfire is reported nr. the **Church of the Nativity**; the **IDF** confiscates the credentials of 17 **journalists** trying to approach the area. The **IDF** lifts the curfew in Dahaysha for 3–4 hrs. (AP, HA, Israeli Trade Min. press release, MM 4/22; NYT, WP, WT 4/23; *Le Monde*, *al-Quds*

4/23 in WNC 4/24; NYT, WP, WT 4/24; QA 4/24 in WNC 4/25; MA 4/26 in WNC 4/29; MM 4/30; MEI 5/3)

23 APRIL

The **IDF** raids several West Bank villages, arresting 26 Palestinians. In Hebron, **Palestinian gunmen** fatally shoot **3 collaborators**. This evening, the **IDF** sets off controlled explosions in the jail that walls on **Arafat's** offices in the Ramallah compound. The **IDF, Palestinian officials** open talks on ending the **Church of the Nativity** siege; **3 Armenian Orthodox monks** surrender, leave their dormitory in the church complex. The IDF lifts the curfew on Bethlehem for 2 hrs. (AFP, AP 4/23; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/24; XIN 4/24 in WNC 4/25; MM 4/25; JP, MEI 5/3)

24 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots **3 14-yr.-old Palestinian boys** who attempt to sneak into a **Jewish settlement**, armed with knives, a homemade pipe bomb. The **IDF** assassinates **senior AMB mbr. Yaqub Sarayra** in Bani Na'im, also killing a **2d Palestinian**; fatally shoots a **15-yr.-old Palestinian** stone thrower in Jenin. A mysterious explosion in Jabaliya kills **3 Palestinians**. In Bethlehem, an **IDF sniper** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** inside the **Church of the Nativity** as he passes by a window; **2 PSF officers** inside the church surrender to IDF custody. (AP 4/24; NYT, WP, WT 4/25)

25 APRIL

The **IDF** sends tanks into PA-controlled Hebron, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 4 before withdrawing. In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots **4 Palestinians** who allegedly try to infiltrate Kefar Darom settlement, sparking an exchange of gunfire with local **PSF** officers that leaves **1 PSF mbr. dead**. A **7th Palestinian** is fatally shot at an IDF checkpoint elsewhere. In Bethlehem, **IDF snipers** fatally shoot **2 Palestinians** inside the **Church of the Nativity**; the IDF allows 9 Palestinian children, 2 corpses to be evacuated. In Arafat's Ramallah compound, a **PA judge** sentences **4 PFLP mbrs.** to terms of 1–18 yrs. for their involvement in the Ze'evi assassination; Israel dismisses the trial as invalid, repeats demands for their extradition. In Jenin r.c., **Palestinians** reject **U.S.-donated** emergency aid, saying the U.S. is culpable in the destruction of the camp. The **IDF** begins

constructing a **security fence**, buffer zone along 7.5 km of the Green Line nr. Tulkarm. (CNN, *Irish Times* [Internet], Jewish Telegraphic Agency, MM, NYT, WT 4/25; AFP, USIS Washington File, WP, WT 4/26; AYM 4/26 in WNC 4/29; AFP, HA, MM 4/30; JP 5/16; AYM 5/16 in WNC 5/21)

26 APRIL

The **IDF** raids Qalqilya, killing (possibly assassinating) **local PFLP leader Ra'id Nazil**, detaining 16 Palestinians. The IDF also conducts arrest raids into Jenin and Nablus, arresting 26 Palestinians. In Bethlehem, **IDF snipers** again fire on the **Church of the Nativity**, seriously injuring 2 Palestinians, who are evacuated for treatment; 4 PSF officers surrender to the IDF. In Ramallah, 100s of Palestinians demonstrate against Arafat's confinement, clash with the IDF, leaving 11 injured. In Gaza, **15,000 Palestinians** attend a **Hamis** rally calling for the continuation of the armed intifada. The **IDF** detains without explanation **Agence France-Presse's (AFP) Palestinian photographer Hossam Abu Alan**. (AFP, HA, MM, REU 4/26; NYT, WP, WT 4/27; *al-Quds* 4/27 in WNC 4/29; WP 5/4)

27 APRIL

At least **2 Hamis gunmen** dressed in IDF uniforms raid Adora settlement, fatally shooting **5 Jewish settlers**, injuring 7. The **IDF** pursues the pair, fatally shoots 1 dead in the nearby Palestinian village of Tufah; the other escapes. In Bethlehem, an **IDF sniper** seriously injures another Palestinian inside the **Church of the Nativity**. (NYT, WP 4/28; HA, MM 4/29; MEI 5/3)

28 APRIL

In Ramallah, **IDF** tanks flatten 10s of PA vehicles outside the PA compound, soldiers demolish the interiors of buildings inside. **Israeli police** arrest **2 Jewish settlers** for planting a timer-controlled bomb in Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem, disable the device; say the pair may be behind the 3/5 bomb planted at a Palestinian school in East Jerusalem. (AYM 4/28 in WNC 4/29; NYT, WP 4/29; HA, Oznik News Service [Internet] 4/30; JP, HA 5/10; WP 5/11)

The **Israeli cabinet** accepts a proposal by **Bush** to allow **Arafat** to travel freely in exchange for the PA transferring **4 wanted PFLP mbrs.** fr. the Ramallah compound to **British-U.S. security personnel**, who will

monitor their confinement in a PSF jail in Jericho until Israel, the PA decide how to handle them. **Arafat** also agrees. **Bush** invites **Sharon** to meet with him in the U.S. in a wk. (AFP, HA 4/28; NYT, WP, WT 4/29; MA, *al-Quds*, *al-Safir* 4/29 in WNC 4/30; MM 4/30; MEI 5/3) (see 4/25)

29 APRIL

The **IDF** stages a major predawn incursion into Palestinian areas of Hebron, conducting house-to-house searches, arresting 150 Palestinians, killing **10 Palestinians**, including apparently assassinating **wanted Hamas mbr. Tarik al-Dufashi**. The **IDF** threatens to raid Hebron Hospital in search of 15 wanted Palestinians; destroys several buildings, including a TV station. In Bethlehem, an **IDF sniper** fatally shoots a Palestinian inside the **Church of the Nativity**. The **IDF** does not begin withdrawal fr. Ramallah, with **Israel** demanding that the **PA** hand over PFLP head **Saadat**, Arafat aide **Fuad Shubaki** (wanted by Israel in connection with the *Karine A* affair) in addition to the **4 PFLP mbrs**. The **IDF** bulldozes land in Rafah r.c., sparking clashes. (CNN, GS, WP, WT 4/29; MENA 4/29 in WNC 4/30; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/30; AYM, *al-Quds* 4/30 in WNC 5/1; MEI 5/3)

30 APRIL

Overnight, the **IDF** pulls out of Hebron. In Rafah, **3 Palestinians**, including a 2-yr.-old girl, are killed by **IDF** tank, machine gun fire. In Bethlehem, 26 Palestinians inside the **Church of the Nativity** (half civilians, half PSF) surrender to the **IDF**. The **PA** says that at least **53 Palestinians** (including 21 civilians) have been confirmed killed in Jenin r.c., 22 Palestinians are reported missing. The **IDF** detains **2 Palestinian cameramen** working for **Reuters**; 1 is released later in the day. (WP, WT 5/1; WP 5/5)

1 MAY

The **IDF** sends tanks, APCs into Tulkarm, imposes a curfew. After the **PA** transfers **6 wanted Palestinians** to **British-U.S.** custody, **Israel** lifts its 34-day siege of the Ramallah compound, grants **Arafat** freedom of movement, withdraws to the outskirts of Ramallah. In Bethlehem, an **IDF sniper** wounds 1 Palestinian inside the **Church of the Nativity**, evacuates him for treatment. Later, the **IDF** directs gunfire, smoke grenades at the Church of the Nativity complex,

wounding 3 Palestinians, starting fires in the Franciscan and Greek Orthodox monasteries that burn uncontrolled for 20 mins. before being extinguished by those inside (the **IDF** bars fire fighters fr. the scene); 2 more Palestinians in the church surrender. In Gaza, **4 Palestinians**, including an 11-mo.-old girl, are killed by **IDF** fire. (MM 5/1; AFP, ITAR-TASS, SA 5/1 in WNC 5/2; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/2; MM 5/3; QA 5/3 in WNC 5/6)

2 MAY

In Bethlehem, the **IDF** fires on 3 Palestinians who attempt to leave the **Church of the Nativity**, killing **1 Palestinian**, severely wounding 2 others; the dead, wounded are evacuated later in the day. The **IDF** continues arrest raids in Tulkarm, detaining at least **5 Hamas mbrs**. In Rafah, **1 Palestinian** is mortally wounded by **IDF** gunfire in her home. (B'Tselem press release 5/9; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/3)

Arafat emerges fr. his Ramallah office for the 1st time since 12/3/01, tours Ramallah to assess the damage. (HA 5/2; MENA 5/2, AKH 5/3 in WNC 5/6; NYT, WP, WT 5/3; WP 5/4; *al-Nabarr* 5/4 in WNC 5/6; *al-Quds* 5/8 in WNC 5/9)

In Washington, the **Quartet** (represented by **Annan, Ivanov, Powell, Solana**) announce plans to convene a FM-level "regional peace conference" in summer 2002 to secure a cease-fire and revive peace talks, rebuild the Palestinian security apparatus, boost humanitarian aid to and economic conditions of the Palestinians. (AP 5/2; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/3; Interfax 5/3 in WNC 5/6; MM 5/7; *al-Safir* 5/10 in WNC 5/13) (see Quarterly Update)

3 MAY

The **IDF** sends troops into Nablus, raiding and demolishing a building and a car, killing **3 Palestinians**, including (possibly assassinating) **senior Hamas mbr. Ali Hudairi**, detaining 8 Hamas mbrs.; **1 IDF soldier** is also killed. In Bethlehem, 4 PSF officers inside the **Church of the Nativity** surrender to the **IDF**. (JP [Internet], MM 5/3; NYT, WP, WT 5/4)

4 MAY

The **CIA, EU, Vatican** become directly involved in negotiations to end the stand-off at Bethlehem's **Church of the Nativity**. The **IDF** fatally shoots another Palestinian inside the church; blows up a doctor's office nr.

Manger Square, saying it contained bomb-making chemicals. The **IDF** fatally shoots a **2d Palestinian** in Gaza. (NYT, WP, WT 5/5; NYT, WP 5/6)

5 MAY

The **IDF** conducts a predawn raid into Tulkarm r.c., conducting house-to-house searches, fire live ammunition at a group of children protesting the incursion, killing a **9-yr-old Palestinian boy**. Nr. Jenin, **IDF** soldiers, believing the sound of a tank tread breaking to be a roadside bomb, fire on Palestinians harvesting an orchard nearby, killing a **Palestinian woman, 2 children**. Also nr. Jenin, the **IDF** bars a **Palestinian woman** in labor fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a hospital; the woman gives birth in a taxi, the **newborn** dies. An **Israeli civilian** dies of injuries received in the 3/27 Netanya bombing, bringing the toll of that attack to 29. (NYT, WP 5/5; UPMRC 5/6; WP 5/7; HA 5/12; JP 5/16)

6 MAY

Under **U.S.** pressure, **Arafat** authorizes an agmt. to end the siege of the **Church of the Nativity** under which **13 wanted Palestinians** inside the church will be exiled to **Italy**, another 26 will be "exiled" to Gaza. The remaining civilians, clergy inside the church will be allowed to go after their identities are confirmed. The **IDF** also lifts the curfew on Bethlehem for 4 hrs.; fatally shoots **4 Palestinians** in 2 separate incidents in Gaza. (ANSA 5/6 in WNC 5/7; NYT, WP, WT 5/7; WP 5/8)

7 MAY

A **suicide bomber** detonates a device in an unlicensed gambling club in the Rishon Letzion suburb of Tel Aviv, killing **15 Israelis**, injuring 57. **Hamas's** military wing claims responsibility, but the political wing will not confirm. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm city, detaining about 40 Palestinians; bulldozes a Palestinian home, fatally shoots a **Palestinian boy** in Rafah; begins work on **Jewish settler** bypass roads nr. Khan Yunis, nr. Nablus. In Bethlehem, the siege of the **Church of the Nativity** continues, with **Italy** complaining it has not been consulted on the 5/6 agmt. (AFP, AP, CNN, MM 5/7; AFP, ANSA, XIN 5/7 in WNC 5/8; *al-Quds* 5/7 in WNC 5/9; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/8; MA, RNE 5/8 in WNC 5/9; MM, WJW 5/9; *al-Ra'i*

5/9 in WNC 5/10; MM 5/10; AYM 5/12 in WNC 5/15; JP 5/16; MEI 5/17; HA 5/24)

The **IDF** announces plans to divide the **West Bank** into 8 isolated zones (Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tulkarm); to impose severe new restrictions on the movement of **Palestinians**, goods btwn. zones. (UNRWA press release 5/14; *al-Quds* 5/16 in WNC 5/17; HA, JT [Internet] 5/17; HA 5/18; AYM 5/18 in WNC 5/20; PMC 5/19; HA 5/22; NYT 5/24) (see Quarterly Update)

In Washington, **Sharon, Bush** hold talks on **PA** reform, barely touch on the idea of a peace conference. They agree that the priority should be halting Palestinian violence, restructuring the PA, unifying the PA security services. Sharon also says that it is "premature" to discuss a Palestinian state, Israel will never agree to withdraw to 1967 lines; suggests Israel will not resume political talks until **Arafat** has been removed fr. power. Bush say he will send CIA dir. **Tenet** to the region to help rebuild the **PA** security forces.

Sharon returns to Israel in light of the Rishon Letzion bombing. (AP, CNN, MM 5/7; MENA, *al-Quds* 5/7 in WNC 5/8; AYM 5/7, MA 5/8 in WNC 5/9; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/8; MM, WJW, WP 5/9; QA, *al-Ra'i* 5/9 in WNC 5/10; MM 5/10; AYM 5/10 in WNC 5/13; JP 5/16) (see Quarterly Update)

8 MAY

In Haifa, a **Palestinian** attempts to detonate a suicide bomb, but is injured, captured by Israeli police. **Israeli forces** demolish 30 **bedouin** shelters in the Negev on the pretext that they were erected without permits (see 2/14). (AP, MM 5/8; ITAR-TASS, MENA 5/8 in WNC 5/9; NYT, WP, WT 5/9; AYM 5/9 in WNC 5/13)

9 MAY

Overnight, the **PSF** arrests some **16 Hamas mbrs.** in connection with the 5/7 Rishon Letzion bombing. The **IDF** masses troops on the border of Gaza in preparation for a major operation in retaliation for the 5/7 attack, calls up army reserves. The **IDF** conducts an arrest raid in the Palestinian sector of Hebron. (AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP 5/9; AFP, ANSA, AYM, JT 5/9 in WNC 5/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/10; MA 5/10 in WNC 5/13)

10 MAY

Israel backs off its attack on Gaza, sends home some reserves called up on 5/9 (see

Quarterly Update). The **Church of the Nativity** standoff ends: 13 Palestinians are sent to Cyprus, where they will stay while their final destinations are worked out; 26 Palestinians are bussed under U.S. emb. watch to Gaza, where they are freed to a hero's welcome; the remaining 84 civilians, clergy are allowed to go free after an identity check; the church is inspected and found to be dirty but only with minor damage. The **IDF** withdraws troops to the outskirts of Bethlehem by the end of the day. In Beersheba, **2 Palestinians** detonate an explosive device, injuring **4 Israelis**; **Israeli police** capture both. In Tulkarm, the **IDF** blows up the home of the 3/27 Hamas suicide bomber, leaving 21 family mbrs. homeless, severely damaging a home next door. **Israel** says it has now arrested **4 Jewish settlers** in the plot to bomb Maqassid Hospital on 4/29 (see 4/28). In Gaza, the **PSF** arrests another **7 Hamas mbrs.**; **Israel** complains they are low-level mbrs. (HA, LAW, MM, WP 5/10; AYM, MENA 5/10, QA, *al-Quds* 5/11 in WNC 5/13; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/11; HA, WT 5/12; JP 5/16; MENA 5/16 in WNC 5/17; MEI 5/17; NYT 5/18)

11 MAY

The **IDF** says the Gaza operation has been postponed, but **troops** remain massed on the border, most **reservists** have not been sent home. The **IDF** opens fire with live ammunition on children throwing stones at Erez crossing, killing a **13-yr-old Palestinian boy**, wounding 2. (XIN 5/11 in WNC 5/13; AFP, NYT, WP, WT 5/12; NYT, WT 5/13; AYM 5/13, SA 5/14 in WNC 5/15; MM 5/14; MEI, MM 5/17)

12 MAY

In Gaza, a **Palestinian** fatally shoots his **Jewish settler** employer. (WP 5/13)

13 MAY

The **IDF** sends troops into Halhul, where they clash with residents, killing **2 Palestini-**

ans; searches homes in Bayt Umar. **Arafat** leaves Ramallah for the 1st time since 12/01 to tour damage in Bethlehem, Jenin town, Nablus; the turnout to greet him is relatively poor. In Ramallah, **5 masked men** attack, beat **PA M for NGO affairs Hassan Asfour**, injuring him, his bodyguard. (AFP 5/13; NYT, WP, WT 5/14; MA 5/14 in WNC 5/17; QA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; MEI 5/17) (see Quarterly Update)

14 MAY

In a predawn operation, the **IDF** enters Halhul, ambushes and assassinates **2 PA intelligence officers** wanted for "terrorist activities." The IDF conducts arrest raids in 2 other West Bank villages, detaining at least 12 Palestinians; continues searching homes in Bayt Umar (see 5/13). **Israeli police** arrest **fmr. head of the outlawed Kach movement Noam Federman**, a 2d Kach mbr. in connection with the plot to bomb East Jerusalem's Maqassid Hospital. (HA, LAW 5/14; NYT, WP 5/15; WP, WT 5/16)

15 MAY

The **IDF** continues to surround all major Palestinian population centers in the West Bank, barring travel btwn. towns and villages except through heavily guarded checkpoints. In Gaza, **1 Palestinian** is killed by **IDF** tank fire. The **IDF** demolishes at least **3 Palestinian homes** in Rafah; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis. **Palestinians** reportedly fire mortars at IDF targets in Gaza, causing no damage. Palestinians across Gaza take part in rallies to mark the anniversary of the Nakba. (XIN 5/15 in WNC 5/16; PCHR, WT 5/16)

In his Nakba day address to the PC, **Arafat** accepts responsibility for mistakes made by the **PA**; calls for broad reforms, new elections, national unity. (HA 5/15; AFP, XIN 5/15 in WNC 5/16; MENA 5/15, *al-Safir* 5/16 in WNC 5/17; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/16; *al-Quds* 5/16, Interfax 5/17 in WNC 5/20) (see Doc. B2)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AKH	(<i>al-Akbbar</i> , Cairo)
AN	(Arab News, Riyadh)
ANSA	(Associated National Press Agency, Rome)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
ATL	(Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM	(<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)

- BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
 BDL (BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem)
 CNN (Cable News Network [Internet])
 DUS (*al-Dustur*, Amman)
 GS (Gush Shalom, Tel Aviv)
 HA (*Ha'Arezt* [Internet], Tel Aviv)
 HP (Hear Palestine [Internet], Washington)
 IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
 JP (*Jerusalem Post International Edition*, Jerusalem)
 JT (*Jordan Times*, Amman)
 LAW (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
 MA (*Ma'ariv*, Tel Aviv)
 MEI (*Middle East International*, London)
 MENA (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
 MM (*Mideast Mirror*, London)
 NYT (*New York Times*, New York)
 PCHR (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
 PMC (Palestine Media Center [Internet])
 QA (*al-Quds al-Arabi*, London)
 REU (Reuters [Internet])
 RMC (Radio Monte Carlo, Paris)
 RNE (RNE Radio 1, Madrid)
 SA (*al-Sbarq al-Awsat*, London)
 UPMRC (Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, Jerusalem)
 WJW (*Washington Jewish Week*, Rockville, MD)
 WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
 WP (*Washington Post*, Washington)
 WT (*Washington Times*, Washington)
 XIN (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)

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A UN vehicle crushed by an IDF tank outside Jenin during Operation Defensive Shield. (Sam Costanza)